

A World Where Everyone Has a Place to Live in Peace and Dignity



Presentation to NAHRO International Research and Global Exchange Committee – December 2020



Rooftops Canada Abri International

Our mission is to improve housing and build sustainable communities in the Global South through partnerships as the international program of Canada's cooperative and social housing movements.



**Our Canadian partners house over 650,000 households
...about 2.1 million people.**

- Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada
- Canadian Housing and Renewal Association
- Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Manitoba (pending)
Non-Profit Housing Associations
- La Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation
- Le Réseau québécois des OSBL d'habitation



Urbanization, Slums and Vulnerability

70% of urban Africans live in slums:
225 million people – growing at 12-15 million per year – mostly women and children

Overcrowding and insecure tenure especially affect women

Lack of basic services: water, sanitation, roads and drainage, electricity, education, health – biggest impact on women, girls

Extreme violence towards women and children

Very high levels of unemployment, especially youth

HIV rates are highest in slums: overcrowding leads to opportunistic infection, inheritance practices discriminate against widows and children

40-50% of slum dwellers are malnourished, 4 out of 10 are children



Rooftops Canada's Response

Focus on Sub-Saharan Africa: Partner with CSOs, housing groups, community/women's organizations, credit/trade unions, local/national governments, international agencies, private sector to improve housing and build sustainable communities.

Capacity building and institutional development:

- Housing development, management, finance and support services
- Mainstreaming gender equality, human rights, governance and housing linked responses to HIV/AIDS & food insecurity
- Community and local economic development.

Global Engagement of Canadians: Overseas TA missions, hosting visitors, sharing resources, outreach and communications to members and leadership of the co-op/social housing sector, financial support.

Successful partnership with Global Affairs Canada from early 1990s.



Housing is an Incremental Process

Income levels are so low that most households cannot afford to buy the least expensive developer built house, even if mortgage finance were available. **Most households build step-by-step, room-by-room.**



- Land acquisition through purchase or settlement
- Infrastructure: water, sanitation
- Core house built incrementally
- Complete house
- Rehabilitation/improvement
- **Small loans for each step**



Responding to HIV - AIDS

- Pioneered housing-related responses to HIV and AIDS with African partners
- Technical support through Interns and TAs: policies, training, youth, etc.
- Facilitates advocacy and sharing experiences at national, regional and global levels
- Compiling and distributing reports, studies, policies.



Urban Food Security, Urban Agriculture and Housing Spaces

- Nairobi, Cape Town & Toronto exchange: dozens of NGOs, CBOs, universities and municipal government departments.
- Focused on creating enabling environments for urban food activities; integrating women/youth to create employment; linking UFS, UA and housing spaces.
- Support for integration of urban food production, processing and sales in green field housing projects and slum upgrading to build more resilient communities.



Since 1985...by the numbers

\$40+ million to build capacity for housing projects and programs

525 technical assistance missions in **36** countries

360 study visitors to Canada from **21** countries

\$500+ million in housing and economic development

Tens of thousands of families with better homes and communities



Equal Spaces: Social housing to end spatial apartheid in South Africa 2016-2020

- \$2.7 million Canada – South Africa bilateral project, with Global Affairs Canada
- Helped revitalize inner city urban communities using well-managed, affordable and secure social housing developments to provide access to socio-economic opportunities that alleviate poverty and contribute to economic growth
- Assisted with sector wide capacity building to strengthen Social Housing Institutions (SHIs) to ensure their financial viability and scale up their ability to develop and manage inclusive social housing developments



Our Advisors, Jo Ferris-Davies, Lizette Zuniga at NASHO, Johannesburg



SA study visitors at the Fred Victor Centre, Toronto, March 2019



Urban Regeneration: Results to Date - 1

- 27 municipal sites in Cape Town and eThekweni planned for 9,460 social & transitional housing units – includes 9 mixed-market sites with added 4,620 affordable rental, ownership and student housing units
- 5 urban regeneration precinct projects under way in two Metros, est. value CAD \$580 million



Urban Regeneration: Results to Date - 2

- Municipal and provincial officials, politicians, SHIs, local stakeholders working better together to deliver precinct based urban regeneration catalyzed by social housing
- New tools in use: Municipal RFPs for social housing partners; RFPs for municipal land; partnership, land and project agreements; financial templates
- RFPs include gender targets for occupants, economic development and job opportunities

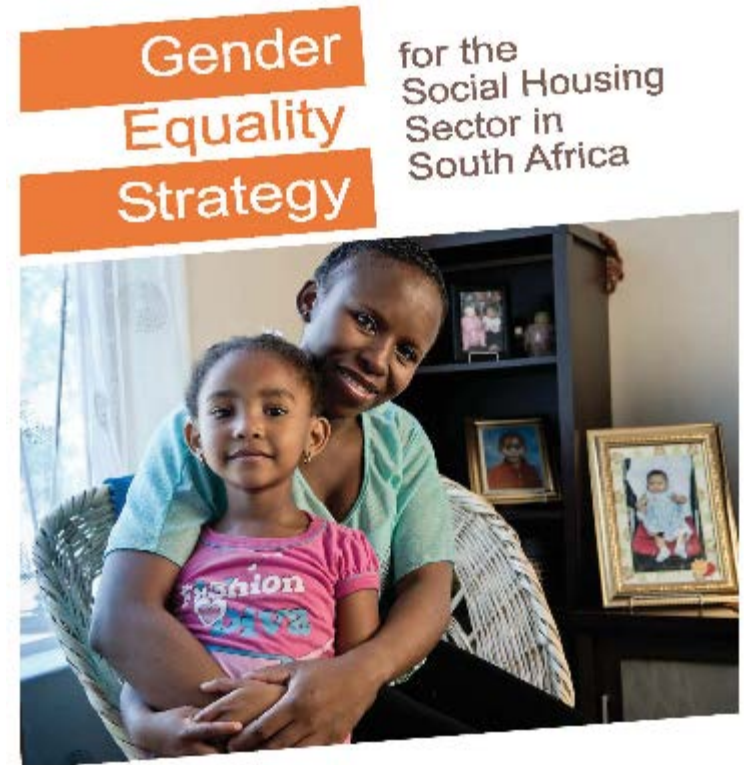


Building social housing partnerships with Metros



Gender Equality Strategy

- Improving safety, responding to and preventing gender based violence
- Improving access to community and social services, and enhancing economic mobility of women SHI residents
- Policies and practices for women's leadership and mobility in the sector
- Promote women's leadership and employment in related professional and construction sectors, and address sexism in social housing
- Gender sensitive building and precinct design, development & management
- Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, and support



Revised 2018



Prepared by
the "Equal Spaces: Social Housing to End
Spatial Apartheid in South Africa" Project

The Gender Equality Strategy was finalized and dissemination started in February 2018. It is available at: rooftops.ca



Social Housing Results

- Trust built among key government and social housing stakeholders through work on shared “Vision and Priorities for Social Housing Capacity Development Strategy”
- Four capacity building projects continuing with local funding to engage new municipalities and incubate new SHIs with “back office” support, fully implement a renewed framework for compliance monitoring and reporting with commitments to “transformation”
- Ongoing implementation of the gender equality strategy - strong focus on preventing and responding to gender-based violence



Training on GBV for SHIs



Learning exchange to Ontario for South African women social housing managers



Regeneration issues for social housing in Canada

- What professional support do new or existing social housing providers need for (re)development? How can this be successfully secured and managed?
- What support is needed from local government to redevelop and how can it be secured?
- If we need mixed-income /mixed-use developments to cross-subsidize new social housing, how can we set up fair and successful partnerships?
- How can we successfully relocate residents while a social housing site is redeveloped? Can social and co-op housing providers work together on this?
- How can we support social housing providers to integrate new stock and current tenants? Should we consider amalgamating small providers to meet redevelopment challenges?



Women's Spaces: Implementing Equal Rights to Land, Housing & Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa

Inequitable land and housing rights lie at the heart of women's poverty, exclusion and insecurity in urban slums.

When women have equal land, housing and livelihoods rights, they can better provide for household needs and cope with challenges such as gender based violence.

Formal gender equality is recognized in constitutions, laws and international commitments, but large gender equality gaps remain due to entrenched attitudes, practices and power structures.

Transformative change depends on new outlooks and practices that promote women's equal rights and full participation in decision-making.

Sustainable responses must be developed with governments, CSOs, women's groups, communities and the private sector.



Kenya, forced eviction



Woman recycler in Johannesburg informal settlement



Women's Spaces: Implementing Equal Rights to Land, Housing & Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa

Women's Spaces will enable partners in Angola, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda to test country-specific practices and generate new gender-responsive policies and solutions regionally and globally.

The 2021-26, \$7.4 million initiative will:

1. **Strengthen local and national policies**, laws and programs to equitably address land, housing and livelihoods needs of women and men.
2. **Increase women's control** over land, housing, and related livelihoods.
3. **Enhance the ability** of local, national, regional and global organizations and networks to influence gender-responsive land, housing and livelihoods policies and practices.



Thank you. To find out more about
Rooftops Canada's programs....

Visit: www.rooftops.ca or www.abri.ca

Be sure to like us on FB to follow progress on
the *Equal Spaces Project* in South Africa and
track our 35 years of success



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