



Cities Alliance and Habitat for Humanity Areas of Cooperation

As you consider Habitat for Humanity's (HFH) application for membership in the Cities Alliance, we expect to be an active contributor and an asset in supporting the goals and programs of Cities Alliance in a number of areas. Detailed below are some suggested activities for collaboration.

1. Demonstration Projects:

HFH seeks to collaborate with Cities Alliance in both a funding and implementing capacity to improve communities and support housing needs.

- As a donor we would bring matching funds to leverage public and private capital for the various Cities Alliance initiatives.
- HFH has invested and co-financed housing microfinance, housing construction and infrastructure projects around the globe, providing technical assistance and housing loan product expertise.
- As a federated organization currently working in close to 100 countries, we seek to partner with Cities Alliance to build capacity, infrastructure, and other capabilities to expand the scope of this work.
- Experienced in working with many Cities Alliance members (SIDA, EU, UN, ADB, etc.)

2. Advocacy:

Because HFH will never be able to build enough houses to achieve its mission of eliminating poverty housing, HFH is committed to leveraging its experience and reputation to promote responsible public policies that address complex housing needs and the widespread poverty in which such needs are rooted. Some of our advocacy work includes:

- Launched organization-wide advocacy campaign in support of security of land tenure
- Online advocacy system launched to engage the general public in support of HFHI advocacy priorities; more than 55,000 online advocates recruited
- Annual Habitat on the Hill Legislative & Advocacy Conference and Lobby Day
- Completed Habitat's first major policy report on the security of land tenure
- Instrumental in getting major legislation introduced in the US Congress on urban slums
- Founding sponsor of the International Housing Coalition.

We have made significant progress in developing and implementing strategies to build our capacity to influence public policy. As a member, we would support Cities Alliance advocacy efforts on issues such as, incremental housing, sustainability, water and sanitation, and slum upgrading.

3. Learning Opportunities and Knowledge Sharing:

HFH seeks to collaborate with Cities Alliance in sharing research, education, program development, and communities of practice models, as well as knowledge dissemination. Areas and activities where we have gathered expertise and provide technical assistance that may be helpful include:

Disaster Response and Risk Reduction: HFHI's Disaster Response program works with the global HFH community in the areas of disaster mitigation, preparedness, shelter and long-term recovery initiatives to address the housing needs that arise from natural disasters and humanitarian emergency conflicts. With this experience we look forward to making a positive contribution including:

- Develop innovative housing and shelter assistance models that generate sustainable interventions for people vulnerable to or affected by disasters or conflicts.
- Build the capacity of the global community in the areas of disaster mitigation, preparedness and recovery through education, training and partnerships.
- Consultation in the areas of technical information; program design and implementation; and disaster response policies, protocols and procedures.
- Support and informational resources for disaster mitigation and preparedness for affiliates and national programs located in disaster-prone areas.

Climate Change and Environment: HFH provides information and training on a variety of construction issues such as management and methods, building materials, energy efficiency, healthy indoor air quality, house design, and accessibility. Working with partners, our US and international affiliates are working to build sustainable, quality houses at the lowest possible cost.

Urban and Slum Upgrading: HFH operates as a direct program implementer as well as an intermediary through its vast network of local community based organizations. Working with government agencies at all levels and the private sector, HFH is able to test different slum upgrading strategies. Our contribution might also include:

- Serve as an intermediary to bring together private and public dialogue
- Technical consultation on urbanization issues – water and sanitation, housing and urban upgrading
- Regional and other conferences – Asia Housing Forum held in Manila by our HFH Asia Area Office and through our other offices in Africa, Latin America and Europe.
- Leverage sustainable development and infrastructure financings for slums

Policy Research: HFH's Global Housing Policy Index can be used as an advocacy tool and in collecting housing, property rights, housing finance, regulatory, and infrastructure research that will inform the policies and conditions of countries and metropolitan areas. Already working closely with Cities Alliance and the World Bank in vetting this tool in Uganda, we hope to use this information to refine and expand the data collected and research to present to governments, educational institutions, and other sectors.

4. **Recognition:**

HFH can add value by promoting and leveraging its U.S and international reputation to the issues that Cities Alliance members care about.

- Leverage local networks both in the US and around the world;
- Contribute to Cities Alliance advocacy on incremental housing and slum upgrading;
- Share Habitat's name and branding through our communications means (website, Habitat World and other publications), donor base, volunteers, etc.