



Rooftops Canada
Abri International

International housing development: Complex challenges and innovative solutions in South Africa and Kenya

2014 & 2015 Rooftops Canada Study Visits



Rooftops Canada – Abri International

Established in 1984, Rooftops Canada – Abri International is the international development program of six co-operative and social housing partners in Canada. Our Canadian partners house over 650,000 households, or approximately 2.1 million people.



Our Canadian Partners

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



The World Crisis in Affordable Housing Urbanization, Slums & Vulnerability



- 1.2 billion people live in slums, including one third of the global urban population and 70% of urban Africans
- 225 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa live in slums, a figure growing by 12-15 million per year



The World Crisis in Affordable Housing

Slum Conditions



- Overcrowding and insecure tenure due to inadequate land and shelter delivery system
- Lack of basic services: water, sanitation, roads and drainage, electricity, education, health
- Very high levels of unemployment, especially among youth
- Extreme violence towards women and children



Rooftops Canada's Response

We partner with NGOs, housing co-ops, credit unions, trade unions, local and national governments, international agencies and the private sector to improve housing conditions



Build sustainable communities through:

- Institutional development, capacity building
- Social and cooperative housing development and management
- Housing microfinance and support services
- Housing linked responses to HIV/AIDS
- Community and local economic development
- Urban food security and housing
- Human rights and governance



Housing is an Incremental Process

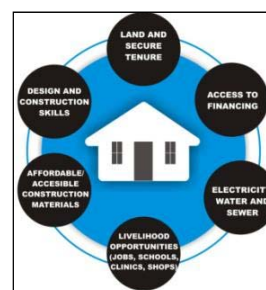
Income levels are so low that most households cannot afford to buy the least expensive developer-built house, even if mortgage financing were available

Most households build step-by-step, room-by-room



INCREMENTAL STEPS:

1. Land acquisition through purchase or settlement
2. Infrastructure: water, sanitation
3. Core house built incrementally
4. Complete house
5. Rehabilitation/improvement



HIV/AIDS is a housing issue

35 million are living with HIV globally and 18.5m live in East and Southern Africa. The Kenyan HIV rate is 7.1%. In the Kibera slum the rate is 17%.

- Residents cannot afford rent or loans because of costly medical bills
- Over-crowding increases risk of opportunistic infection
- Inheritance practices discriminate against widows and children and orphans end up on city streets



Images from Nairobi



National Cooperative Housing Union (NACHU)

NACHU is Rooftops Canada's Co-op Housing Partner in Kenya, they:

- Provide services and training to 600 active housing co-ops with over 200,000 people
- Provide housing and loans for co-op communities and mini-water companies on a cost-recovery basis
- Mainstream gender equality, youth livelihoods and HIV/AIDS response
- Support urban regeneration and community greening projects



Greenfields Co-op Housing Projects

Eight housing Co-ops on slightly over 60 acres of land with 382 families

- Services include water reticulation, drainage system, septic tanks, boreholes, water tanks



The Umande Trust & Slum Bio-Centres

“Kibera Youth – Arise and Change!”

A NACHU partner, Umande Trust bio-centres can service 900 people a day within 100 metres at a lower rate than private toilets

- **Digester:** Mixes water and human waste in anaerobic conditions to make bio-gas for cooking by converting methane into CO² and water and substituting the need for other fuels
- **Toilets and washrooms:** Ground floor to ensure accessibility, free ‘child only’ cubicles
- **Water Kiosk:** Selling affordable clean water
- **Upper Floors:** Hall and ancillary rooms for community activities



The Mazingira Institute: Urban Food Insecurity

- 40-50% of slum dwellers are malnourished, four out of ten are children
- 1/3 of urban residents in East Africa practice urban agriculture, involving both crops and livestock
- Creating food and income intensifies the use of urban spaces



Images from Johannesburg



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Madulammoho & eKhaya

- Joint community efforts which work with housing groups and developers to reclaim hijacked building from gangs
- Reducing criminal activity, cleaning up neighbourhoods and securing lanes between buildings
- Convincing the city to bring services back and setting up a security patrol system (BadBoyz)





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NASHO

18 member organizations that own 24,000 non-profit units and 115,000 low to middle income families

- Capacity development program for its members and municipalities
- Equivalent to CHRA in South Africa
- International exchanges, ONPHA large housing providers conference and bulk buying program and other





Above: Brickfield JHC building in Johannesburg - before and after upgrading – Free State Social Housing Company building





Soweto Tour

Soweto's urban re-generation includes single, semi and high-rise housing, the largest hospital in South Africa, and Vilakazi Street, once home to Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, both Nobel Peace Prize winners.



JOSHCO & JHC

- **The Johannesburg Social Housing Company (JOSHCO)** is the City of Johannesburg's rental housing agency which manages 11,652 mixed-density units.
- **The Johannesburg Housing Company (JHC)** owns and manages 4,320 units in 34 buildings, accommodating over 12,000 people

Above: JOSHCO, a municipal SHI, upgrades a hostel in Selby.

Below: JHC's Brickfields Project in a mix of low rise and high rise buildings



Images from Cape Town



Communicare

- **Communicare** is a Rooftops Canada partner in Cape Town which manages 3,375 rental units, the largest not-profit landlord in the Western Cape
- **Other properties** include community halls, commercial residential units, retirement villages and early childhood development centres
- **Bothasig Gardens** is a new social housing project with 120 units which provides residents with easy access to schools, libraries and local transit



Kuyasa Fund – Loans for Upgrades



- Kuyasa Fund provides housing micro-loans to mostly urban, poor households that are normally excluded from the housing finance market
- Cecilia (bottom right) is a long time and “excellent” Kuyasa Client
- Multiple loans have helped to provide a safe and comfortable environment for her children by erect a secure fence and replace her roof



Soil for Life

Soil for Life is a partner in urban agriculture which provides training and support for township gardeners. SFL designs and tests innovative tools and methodologies to improve the collection and analysis of data from the household farmers they support.



Soil for Life staff member (right) with Rooftops Canada volunteer



How you can help!

- **Get actively engaged** with Rooftops Canada's international mission. Be a Rooftops Canada Ambassador/Volunteer make presentations to housing groups and the Canadian public. We will train you on how to use our ambassador resource tools.
- **Be a fundraising volunteer**, have fun, organise cake sales, 50/50 draws, silent auctions and so on.
- **Be an online fundraising volunteer**, reach out to your friends and family and fundraise for our programs. We will provide you with information and training.
- **Host overseas visitors** from Rooftops Canada's partners



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To find out more about Rooftops Canada's programs,
please visit: www.rooftops.ca or www.abri.ca

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