

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON HOUSING



NAIROBI 1987

UNCHS-PGCHS



ENCLOSURES

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- LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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POST GRADUATE CENTRE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS - KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN - BELGIUM

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PRESS RELEASE : INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON HOUSING IN DEVELOPMENT
NAIROBI, 18-31 January 1987

Within the framework of the "1987 International Year of Shelter for the homeless", a major two-week Workshop on 'Housing in Development' focusing on East and Southern Africa will officially open in the UNCHS Headquarters at Gigiri-Nairobi on 19 January.

The Workshop has been jointly organized by the Post Graduate Centre Human Settlements (PGCHS) of the University of Leuven (KULeuven), Belgium, and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), Kenya. Various local organizations have provided invaluable assistance in its preparation and organization, most notably the University of Nairobi and especially the Housing Research and Development Unit (HRDU) which cooperates in conducting the Workshop.

This is the third Workshop organized by PGCHS-UNCHS in Nairobi. It forms part of a major short term UN Training Programme on "Housing in Development" organized since 1979 and alternately focusing on the Asian and African context and respectively meant for Asian and African professionals in this field.

Funds for these training programmes are provided by the Belgian Government's Ministry of Development Cooperation as a multi-lateral project in the field of Human Settlements. The total budget made available by the Belgian Government for several short-term training activities in Asia and Africa within a three-year working period amounts to over 400.000 US \$, including stipends, organization, preparatory research and follow-up. Additional substantial funding for research and logistic support is provided by the University of Leuven (KULeuven) itself.

The Programme is intended for middle to senior level professionals and decision-makers in the field of architecture, engineering, planning and construction from both governmental and non-governmental organizations, training and research institutes, who are responsible for studying, preparing and implementing popular housing programmes, and who share an explicit willingness to update and upgrade their critical thinking, skills and working methods.

This Workshop has attracted some 30 representatives from many countries of the region, including Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, as well as from Kenya. It therefore provides an opportunity to compare and reflect upon the housing conditions and problems and the opportunities for action which exist to improve these in the respective countries.

In general the main objective of the Programme is to break through the professional limits to develop a comprehensive understanding of the housing process as a complex whole. In particular, methods are developed to analyze existing housing situations; housing problems and solutions are critically studied and innovative approaches for housing interventions are initiated so as to improve professional skills in planning, designing and construction of (low-cost/low-income) housing projects.

The Programme focuses on aspects of housing related to the built environment. New ideas, recent research and practice in architecture, construction and physical planning are presented within the following major themes :

- housing policies and actors, housing systems, planning and implementation
- spatial articulation and inhabitation of dwelling environments in urban and regional contexts (settlement, village, town, city);
- use of materials and building technologies in the construction process.

By elaborating these issues one tries to achieve an improvement or appropriate use of technical and human resources, and of the spatial and institutional organization of the built environment and housing programmes.

The aim of the Workshop as part of the Training Programme is to introduce participants to new concepts of housing and to confront them with some realities of housing in a common and concrete context (Nairobi and Kenya) whereby "working and observing on site different housing situations (dwelling environments, construction sector, housing systems,...)" is a major method of learning.

During the interval between the regional workshop and the two-month course, participants are expected to prepare in-depth case study material in their respective countries.

In the second half of 1987 a two month follow-up course will be held at PGCHS in Belgium for 15-20 participants selected among the Workshop participants. In this course the ideas and viewpoints presented in the Workshop are further elaborated, tested out in project alternatives and translated to the home and working context of each participant.

Organizations involved

Post Graduate Centre Human Settlements (PGCHS)

The Post Graduate Centre Human Settlements (KULeuven) started in 1970 as an academic centre within the Department of Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning of the Leuven University. It is a very active centre geared specifically towards the study of problems of housing, building and planning in developing countries.

Its main objective is to stimulate critical thinking and to come to fruitful and worldwide exchange with individual people and organizations concerned with problems of development and thus to contribute to appropriate strategies in the field of Habitat.

The activities of PGCHS start from the principle that interventions in the built environment (planning schemes, design proposals, building activities, etc.) should reflect concepts of development based on the stimulation of human potentials, encouraging socio-cultural values and specificity, countering hardship imposed by nature and by man upon fellow man, and respectful of ecological balances.

According to this principle, the PGCHS leads a permanent discussion and conducts training, research and project work on housing, planning and building related to general development problems, while trying to elaborate appropriate planning and building concepts and strategies which contribute to the improvement of both analysis and action in the sector of Habitat.

Activity is mainly though not exclusively concentrated around the following

geographical regions : the Magreb countries, Central and Eastern Africa and South-East Asia.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in Nairobi was established in 1978 as a result of the UN Habitat Conference held in 1976 at Vancouver to deal with the world's major settlement problems and to formulate a wide range of projects and research programmes.

It is within the responsibility of UNCHS to support national and international actions aiming at improving the human environment.

Among its major tasks are :

- co-ordination of human settlements programmes planned and carried out by the United Nations system;

- Execution of human settlements projects;

- Global exchange of information on human settlements;

- Promotion of collaboration with and involvement of the world's scientific community concerned with human settlements development.

The technical assistance from UNCHS in human settlements projects covers the whole spectrum of the habitat development process, including policy formulation and evaluation, finance and management, institutional improvement and establishment, education and training, urban and regional physical planning, integrated rural development, house construction, provision and improvement of physical infrastructure and community services.

Major emphasis is on the improvement of slums, squatter and rural settlements, and on the use of local building materials and low-cost construction technology with the participation of the communities involved.

The Housing Research and Development Unit (HRDU)

The Housing Research and Development Unit (HRDU) has been in existence since 1967 as a research and training Unit within the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Development of the University of Nairobi. It was established through an agreement between the Ministry of Housing and Social Services, now Ministry of Works, Housing and Physical Planning, and the University College Nairobi, now University of Nairobi. The main objective of the Unit is to conduct research in the technical, social and economic aspects of housing with special attention to low-cost housing in Kenya, and to assist in the training of the required manpower to provide the necessary skills in the implementation of housing and other related human settlements programmes and projects in the country.

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PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. UNCHS responsibilities

- stipend
- accomodation : UNCHS has reserved single rooms with bath for all participants at the Excelsior Hotel which is located in the centre of town (Kenyatta Avenue; tel. 26481/3/3).
- transportation : participants will be picked up at the Excelsior Hotel in the mornings to be taken to the Workshop venue at Gigiri. UNCHS will also see to the transportation to the field-visit locations.
- conference facilities : the Workshop venue is located at Gigiri, Nairobi (UNCHS Offices).
- coffee breaks.

Mrs. Suchan SPATZ from UNCHS is the person in charge for practical matters. More detailed information will be given on Sunday evening 18 January and on the following Monday morning.

2. PGCHS responsibilities

- practical implementation of course content and programme
- Workshop handbook which will be provided to each participant at the start of the Workshop.
- preparation and distribution of handouts related to the Workshop.
- typing and copying of Workshop related short reports or notes by participants.
- documentation on display : the PGCHS jointly with HRDU offers a number of interesting documents on display. These are however meant for consultation and must not be removed (UNCHS will provide you with a set of documents which you can keep).
- a permanent PGCHS secretariat will be set up at UNCHS starting January 14. It is located near the Workshop Conference room (you will be informed of the opening hours).
- for the Workshop related matters, please contact Ms. Anne De Smet.

- following these practical matters you will find a form which you should complete with your full name, correctly spelled (in capitals) and with your office address (including telephone and if possible telex number) as well as with your personal address. Please return this information to Ms. Anne De Smet as soon as possible.

3. Participant responsibilities

- all expenses at the hotel in addition to the room rate (the latter is the responsibility of UNCHS).
- personal phone calls, cables, etc.
- travel arrangements (reconfirmation of flights, etc...) (Note that there is a Bank Office, a Post office and a small travel agency at your disposal at UNCHS).
- all personal expenses (meals, etc.) and small work-related expenses which may be useful (writing and drafting equipment, personal documentation, etc.)
- off-work transportation.