

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON HOUSING



NAIROBI 1987

UNCHS-PGCHS



ACTORS AND HOUSING SYSTEMS IN KENYA :

MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING
NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION

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Housing Department
Chief of the Department

POST GRADUATE CENTRE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS - KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN - BELGIUM

sponsored by :
UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, Nairobi, Kenya

funded by :
BELGIAN ADMINISTRATION FOR DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

in co-operation with :
HOUSING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT,
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, Nairobi, Kenya

MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Housing Department employs multi disciplinary officers from appropriate disciplines and professions that are necessary for the effective formulation, planning and implementation of the national housing and human settlements policies and programmes. The Department comprises officers of diverse professional disciplines which include Sociologists, Land Economists, Building Economists, Engineers, Physical/Urban Planners, Architect/Planners, Economists, Statisticians whose disciplines are integrated to enable the Department to generate adequate knowledge and experience in planning, development and management skills needed to implement National Housing and Human Settlements programmes and projects.

FUNCTIONS OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The functions of the department include:

- (a) The promotion and enhancement of inter-disciplinary approach to Housing and Human Settlement policies, plans, programmes and projects with a view to ensuring intergrated planning, management and rational utilization of available resources on a sustainable basis for the improvement of the quality of shelter and standard of life of the people.
- (b) Performing a planning and implementation role in the initiation, formulation and development of policies related to housing and human settlements especially improvement in the design, management, construction techniques and financing. This involves harmonisation of those policies and other activities of government Ministries, Departments, and other institutions as they relate to housing and human settlements, so that functional conflicts and wasteful duplication of efforts and resources are avoided.
- (c) Developing strategies and methodologies for the monitoring and evaluation of accepted housing and human settlements policies, goals, and objectives and the integration of such policies, goals and objectives in development planning

and decision-making at all levels.

- (d) Assessing and evaluating the impact of urbanization on human settlements and the constraints and opportunities posed by industrialisation, scarce resources and advising on appropriate measures to be taken in their co-ordination.
 - (e) Providing advice and accurate information on matters related to housing and human settlements to government Ministries and Departments, local authorities, housing agencies, co-operatives, other institutions and individuals.
 - (f) Monitoring and assessment of the current state and the foreseeable trends in the quantity and quality of manpower, finance, and land available for national housing programme, and the preparation of periodic reports on the state of housing and human settlement.
 - (g) Proposing and advising on proper land use practices as an essential and critical component of resource input and management in the implementation of national housing programme.
 - (h) Giving appropriate support to initiatives, resolutions and programmes designed to promote regional and inter-regional co-operation in the provision of housing for the low income families.
 - (i) Preparation and subsequent follow-up of Kenya's participation in Habitat and other international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations dealing with housing and human settlements.
 - (j) Collection, collation and co-ordination of housing and human settlements, encouragement of further research in selected critical areas including research, investigations and surveys in the following areas.
- I. Environmental considerations, i.e. initiation, formulation and evaluation of housing and human settlement programmes and the activities of governmental and non-governmental agencies with a view to incorporating environmental considerations in the process of housing planning and execution in both urban and rural areas.
- II. Housing and Human Settlements (Habitat) policies including the initiation, formulation, review and evaluation of goals,

policies and strategies and the monitoring and assessment of shelter, service infrastructure and community programmes and projects for the improvement of the quality of housing /shelter in both urban and rural areas.

- III. Appropriate Technology i.e. incorporating the development, use, transfer, adoption and adaptation of appropriate technology in all fields of building materials and construction techniques, financing and design, includign energy conservation.
- IV. Industrial location and transport linkages including the determination of appropriate residential and industrial location in relation to transport facilities and places of work.
- V. Building Legislationand institutional framework for implementing Agencies, involving review, formulation and implementation of appropriate instruments relating to building standards and by-laws including design and research at University and proposed National Building Centre, curriculum development in formal institutions and the development of strategies and methodologies needed for housing and human settlement training and educational programmes.
- VI. Housing and Human Settlements information and data i.e. the collection, retrieval and dissemination of relevant housing and human settlements information and data for policy and decision makers, designers, builders, managers, manufacturers, etc. and generally to relevant sectors of our economy.