



### Exploring new housing solutions

I hope you are all able to stay cool in this summer heat. I am writing this in a heatwave in the UK where, after three years, thanks to the deep trust I have in the Habitat Hong Kong team I have been able to switch off, take a long overdue break and reflect on all our achievements over the past year.

June was a particularly important month with the launch of our new Housing Series and the opening of our first ever pop-up Community Space and Emergency Shelter! I am also proud to share that in the past twelve months thanks to your support, we have served over 6000 vulnerable families through deep cleaning, repairs and renovation services and distributed 5559 home hygiene kits. We have also been busy collaborating with other organisations, NGOs, and sector experts to explore new housing solutions.

One of the exciting projects we have been working on is **Housing in Place: Quality Living for Sustainable Hong Kong (HiP)**. The project was conceived by Dr. Juan Du, Honorary Professor at the University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Architecture, to research and design alternative housing solutions and community spaces located in urban centres and neighbourhoods served best by public transportation and civic institutions. HiP examines how the thousands of underutilised buildings that are temporarily vacant or awaiting lengthy redevelopment processes could be used to generate quality housing spaces in accessible locations, improve existing housing stocks, and provide crucial community spaces in areas with the highest concentration of population in need of social services. In this phase of the project, HKU's Urban Ecologies Design Lab (UEDL) have transformed four floors of a vacant building in Jordan to provide quality spaces for emergency housing and community facilities. The HiP Emergency Shelter and Community Space is now open, and we are working with local partners including Praxis, Impact HK and Justice Centre, to use the space for the local community and serve thousands of residents over the next few months with meal distribution, legal consulting, and home improvement training. [Find out more.](#)

On June 9th in the pursuit of our goal of bringing international and local voices together to find more solutions for improved and inclusive housing, we launched our new speaker series, **Housing Series 1: Addressing housing inequity through Universal Design**. I was honoured to moderate a meaningful discussion with two inspiring guest speakers, Judy Heumann, an international and award-winning disability rights advocate and Dr. Calvin Luk, Project Manager of Jockey Club's Design Institute for Social Innovation. The session explored how housing inequity could be addressed through barrier-free design and the challenges faced by people with disabilities. If you missed this engaging and thought-provoking event, you can watch the recording [here](#). If you think this is a topic that doesn't concern you, watch now to find out why universal design impacts us all.

Our next Housing Series webinar is coming up on 31 August and we will explore why affordable housing is key to realising the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [Click here to reserve your tickets now!](#)

In the meantime, I wish you all a safe and cool summer, wherever you are!

Jo Hayes  
CEO, Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong



#### Voices of Volunteers

Habitat Hong Kong was thrilled to be a part of the HandsOn Hong Kong Serve-a-thon again this year!

A few weeks ago, volunteers joined our Project Home Works programme to renovate ceilings for an elderly woman living alone in substandard housing. One of our volunteers, Gabrielle, shared "I think it is good to do a hands-on and practical activity with other people. It's lovely to meet new people, learn a new skill and to do something that is a very tangible benefit and at the end of the session we could see. When we walked in and the ceiling was damaged, bits falling off and uneven, by the end of it, it was a nice, clean and newly painted ceiling which hopefully makes the living environment nice and comfortable for Grandma Ma".

A massive thank you to our volunteers and HandsOn Hong Kong for organising such an amazing community volunteering event every year!! Every volunteer can make a difference and help us to achieve our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Sign up to become a volunteer now!



#### Our local impact

Recently, our Project Home Works team went to Cheung Hong Estate and delivered deep cleaning services for elderly families living in substandard conditions. This is Grandma Zhu – she told us that one of the biggest issues in her home was that she was not able to clean her fans because they are too high for her to reach. Her knees were also not as strong as before, so she could not stand for long and do a thorough deep clean of her own home.

We were glad to have two local domestic workers to deep clean all her fans, toilet, and throw away food that had gone bad. As summer approaches, Grandma Zhu can now use her fans for better air circulation and quality of sleep. Just a simple deep cleaning process can help the elderly such as Grandma Zhu to improve her living situation significantly.

Become a monthly donor now to support families in need such as Grandma Zhu and help them to achieve the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves.

Learn how you can support



#### Our global impact

Thank you all for your donations and support for our Ukraine crisis response so far.

As of June 2022, 2600 travel kits were distributed to refugees in Romania at the main borders in Isacea and Siret and at the Bucharest North Railway Station, where many refugees are transiting to other parts of Europe. 25,000 people were supported through the donations of furnishings, food and household items from Habitat Poland's ReStore in Warsaw and through electric heaters and air-conditioning units that Habitat provided to transit centers in Romania. 300 refugees from Ukraine are living in spaces refurbished by Habitat Romania that are provided by civil society partners and state institutions as interim shelter solutions of up to six months. 2,750 refugees have been provided with short-term accommodations in Romania, Poland and Hungary. 1,255 refugees have been provided with mid- and long-term accommodations across Poland, Romania and Hungary. 1 new law is being leveraged to support refugees from Ukraine. The law, originally passed in 2021 through Habitat Poland's advocacy, is crucial for helping cities and municipalities scale up social rental housing programs, thus increasing access to housing for the people most in need.

Thank you to the Habitat team for all the hard work, we are so grateful for this global effort. We will continue to update you on our response and long-term approach in supporting families with their shelter needs.

With your support, we can help provide shelter to Ukrainian refugees.

Support our work Ukraine response



#### Together, we build a better future

JLL HK has joined our new Corporate Membership Programme!

We recently launched our pilot Corporate Membership Programme and are excited to announce that JLL HK has now joined! The programme is designed to provide a platform for companies to have strategic and sustained social impact in the community. Alex Barnes, Managing Director for Hong Kong & Macau at JLL, said "We are thrilled to be a founding member of this new social impact programme. At JLL, we are committed to give back for a better world and we look forward to scaling up our social impact with other like-minded companies".

To find out more and become a founding member of our Corporate Membership Programme, please email [partnerships@habitat.org.hk](mailto:partnerships@habitat.org.hk)

Join us now!

## Housing in the news

#### In Hong Kong

- New World's affordable housing project aimed at getting first-time buyers in Hong Kong on property ladder ([South China Morning Post](#))
- Hong Kong may use luxury Fanling golf course to build 12,000 public housing flats ([South China Morning Post](#))
- 874 units left vacant in 45 public housing estates: concern group ([The Standard](#))
- Work may start soon for first subsidized private project ([The Standard](#))
- Hong Kong landowners to get better compensation rates with new system ([South China Morning Post](#))

#### In Asia

- Asia jumps on co-living bandwagon to draw young, mobile talent ([Nikkei Asia](#))
- HDB to launch about 4,500 BTO flats, new projects under prime area model in May exercise ([CNA](#))
- Habitat for Humanity's youth supporters in Asia-Pacific return to on-site volunteering for the first time in two years ([AsiaOne](#))

#### Around the world

- Housing Trends: Homeownership Is Growing Among Asian-Americans but Still Lags Other Groups, Study Finds ([Yahoo! Finance](#))
- Remove obstacles to creating affordable housing in underutilized commercial spaces ([Los Angeles Daily News](#))

## How you can support



**Become a monthly donor now**

Please help us to achieve our vision of a world where every one has a decent place to live. Monthly donations help us to be a sustainable organisation and enable us to plan ahead. Become a #HopeBuilder and give families hope for a brighter future.



**Become a volunteer**

Habitat for Humanity provides free home cleaning, repair, and renovation services for elderly and low-income families, to provide a healthy, safe and sanitary home. You can join us to provide these families with a decent place to live, sign up to become a volunteer now!



**Yes I want to lend a hand!**

At Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong, we believe that everyone deserves a decent place to live. We have been serving the community, providing home repairs, renovations, and deep cleaning services to low-income families, elderly and people with disabilities. We hope you can support us by donating and fundraising for us. Fundraising for us means you are making an impact on vulnerable families living in substandard housing. You are helping to ensure we have the resources we need to run our programmes in Hong Kong. We aim to raise a minimum of HK\$200,000 this year, and we can only do it with your support. Get started with your own fundraiser now!

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