

## The barriers to affordable and adequate housing

To celebrate World Habitat Day this year, we held the third webinar in our Housing Series, and we were honoured to be joined by Ricky Chu Man-kin, Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission and Susan Araka, Housing Development Expert at the Regional Office for Africa, UN Habitat, Nairobi. The World Habitat Day theme was 'Mind the Gap. Leave No One and No Place Behind' and the moderator was Karen Lee, Chartered Town Planner and Project Manager, Jockey Club Design Institute for Social Innovation at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). Karen sits on the Habitat Hong Kong Public Policy & Programmes Committee and has brought her experience and expertise to guide our strategic focus on our policy work and our recently launched Ageing in Place pilot programme, and so we were thrilled Karen was able to moderate this important conversation.

In this session, we explored the housing inequalities faced by people in cities around the world and how these same systemic inequities could be addressed in Hong Kong. If you missed it, you can [view the recording here](#).

A key takeaway for me was Susan's answer to the question of what makes an inclusive city. Susan said that an inclusive city is somewhere where both a child, and an elderly person, can exist without fear of exclusion. This is where the adoption of Universal Design principles in new building developments, residential and commercial, is so critical in providing universal accessibility to housing and the wider city.

I also had the opportunity to co-author an opinion piece with Ricky Chu, [published in the SCMP](#) on ingrained inequities that prevent access to decent and affordable housing for vulnerable communities. Inequality of access to decent housing is both a global and local issue, as the pandemic and climate change exacerbate social disparities. Housing is not so much a commodity as a fundamental right, to address the problems facing marginalised groups.

At Habitat Hong Kong, we will continue to work on addressing these growing inequalities in housing to ensure that no one is left behind. We need your help, and we can't do it alone. Please sign up to [become a monthly donor now](#) and help us to build hope for a brighter future.

Thank you!

Jo Hayes  
CEO, Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong



### Voices of Volunteers

Recently, we went to The Endeavourers Leung Lee Sau Yu Memorial Primary School to paint murals and provide students with a beautiful and friendly learning environment. We were thrilled to partner with JLL HK and the students were so excited to paint with the volunteers!

One of the volunteers, Sabrina, shared her experienced with us, "the walls were just cement with plain and old colours, and I think we really bought it to life when we painted over it! We rarely volunteer with so many people, so I am so thrilled to be able to work with so many colleagues and share this experience together. I was also able to work with a few fifth-grade students too and they are so cute!"

We would like to say a huge thank you to JLL, our volunteer designer and the principal and teachers at The Endeavourers Leung Lee Sau Yu Memorial Primary School. If you are interested, please contact [partnerships@habitat.org.hk](mailto:partnerships@habitat.org.hk) for more information.

[Become a volunteer now!](#)



### Our local impact

Habitat was thrilled to be a part of 2022 Hong Kong Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture this year! The exhibition was held over the last few months in Central Market, with exchange of exhibits between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, plus various events with architecture, urban culture, art, design and planning elements that was organised concurrently.

In our exhibit "Beyond four walls and a roof", we showcased our impact in Hong Kong and highlighted some of the housing issues faced by our city. Housing is more than four walls and a roof. A safe, adequate and affordable home can lead to improved health and education outcomes, as well as build a sense of hope and community.

[Follow us for more updates](#)



### Our global impact

Have you seen the eighth Asia-Pacific Housing Forum post event report ? If not, check it out now!

The virtual Housing Forum was held in December 2021. The event attracted 4,875 participants from 53 locations! With the theme "Building Forward Better for Inclusive Housing", the focus of the housing forum centred on how affordable and sustainable housing solutions can bring an inclusive future for vulnerable and low-income families through greener, safer, and more resilient approaches. Learn more about the key takeaways and highlights in the full post-event report.

[Read the full report](#)



### Together, we build a better future

Recently, our team had a training day on Psychological Safety in the workplace and Leveraging Cognitive Diversity. Psychological Safety in the workplace is linked to setting clear expectations and diversity transcends demographic diversity. It is important that we recognise the diverse thinking styles of each member of the team brings to the table. Through these capability and culture building workshops, we learnt a lot and have concrete actions to now take on better understanding how the team feels and to build an open-minded and inclusive environment together.

Thank you to our workshop facilitators Brian Henderson and Chris Durkin for their commitment to the non-profit sector and helping us achieve one of our strategic goals of investing in our people. We will continue to work and grow together as a team to build communities, homes and hope.

[Learn more](#)

## Housing in the news

### In Hong Kong

- Hong Kong concern group urges gov't to step up inspections of subdivided units under 'paper tiger' rent control law ([Hong Kong Free Press](#))
- 2022 GBA-GFA | HKGFA Annual Meetings ([Yahoo! finance](#))
- From AI to cooling paint: how smart tech helps Hong Kong buildings cut the cost of staying green ([South China Morning Post](#))
- 4,500 flats to go on sale at less than half market value under Hong Kong housing scheme, amid fears nano units will not sell ([South China Morning Post](#))
- HKMA easing rates bounce in property deals ([The Standard](#))

### In Asia

- An innovative housing solution leads to new beginnings for families in Nepal ([Habitat for Humanity International](#))
- India's first self sustainable housing community to address climate change ([Hindustan Times](#))

### Around the world

- Habitat for Humanity GTA Women Build Returns to Toronto ([Globe Newswire](#))
- Renovation With a Purpose: A.D.C. Home Gets a Big Eco-Friendly Overhaul ([The Washington Post](#))

## How you can support



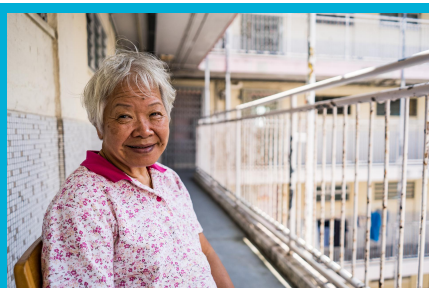
### Become a monthly donor now

Please help us to achieve our vision of a world where everyone 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 Hong Kong 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. Get started with your own fundraiser now!

Stay connected with us:



[Unsubscribe](#)  
[Privacy policy](#)

Contact us:

Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong  
9/F, V-Point, 18 Tang Lung Street  
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong  
[enquiry@habitat.org.hk](mailto:enquiry@habitat.org.hk)