

EVENT REPORT

Fostering Inclusivity and Resilience in Housing in Africa

MAY 12 - 14, 2022 Nairobi, Kenya

Organized by



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1. THE AFRICA HOUSING FORUM 2022 AT A GLANCE

The first ever Africa Housing Forum (africahousingforum.org) took place in-person and virtually from the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi from 12 to 14 May 2022. It was hosted by Habitat for Humanity International, in collaboration with partner organizations and institutions, and welcomed practitioners and stakeholders to attend and hold discussions on four key tracks: promoting inclusivity in the housing sector; supporting affordable housing; leveraging multi sector collaboration; and building sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11).

The forum also covered plenaries discussing: African cities' pandemic response, challenges and lessons; contribution of the housing sector to Africa's growing economies; climate change and housing impact; and responding to Africa's growing housing demand pressures.

Attendees at the event included influential business leaders, policymakers, academics, urban planners, architects, property developers, key representatives from international organizations, nongovernment organizations, donor agencies, social enterprises, housing finance organizations, technology companies, youth organizations, researchers, advocates and others.

Within the framework of the Africa Housing Forum, a competition – called the Innovation Awards – was held to promote and celebrate innovative housing solutions that can improve access to decent, affordable, and disaster-resilient shelter. Categories were: ShelterTech, Best Practices and Public Policies.

The main aim of the Africa Housing Forum was to engage practitioners and stakeholders to come together to tackle issues, discuss solutions and promote low-cost, affordable housing as a driver of economic growth in the African region.

OBJECTIVES

- Inspire a new vision for more inclusive, healthy and resilient cities and human settlements.
- Raise profile and visibility of the Habitat for Humanity's Africa Area as a convener and a major stakeholder in housing in the continent.
- Provide a platform to build coalitions to influence market approaches and policy making in favor of affordable and sustainable housing in Africa.
- Provide a platform to scale low-cost, affordable housing for socio economic segments in the African region.
- Strengthen anchoring of international commitments to SDGs and climate change in national and municipal priorities. Climate and green: Mainstreaming green and climateresponsive interventions.
- Recognize and act on the importance of housing as a driver of inclusive economic growth, resilience and sustainability in human settlements.
- Promote, celebrate and reward innovative and high impact affordable housing initiatives in the African region.
- Provide a platform for mutual learning and sharing innovative ideas -Promoting market inclusivity, by actively sharing experiences and progress contributing to the increased availability of data and market intelligence that supports the housing finance sector.

THEMES

The three days of the Africa Housing Forum involved discussions covering topics and challenges the housing sector is facing in the Africa region under the following:

Tracks

- 1. Promoting inclusivity in the housing sector
- 2. Supporting affordable housing
- 3. Leveraging multi sector collaboration
- 4. Building sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11)

Plenaries

- 1. African cities' pandemic response, challenges and lessons
- 2. Contribution of the housing sector to Africa's growing economies
- 3. Climate change and housing impact
- 4. Responding to Africa's growing housing demand pressures



The housing sector is a large contributor to a country's GDP. It is not solely anyone's responsibility but our collective responsibility. It's up to you and I to make it happen.





2.1 THE NUMBERS OF THE AFRICA HOUSING FORUM

GRAND TOTAL

1.4 MILLION

Reached through social media posts

16,136

Website users over 48 days across 111 countries 32

Media stories across TV, radio, print & online

47

Countries

788

Participants

554

In-person attendees

234

Digital attendees

92

Speakers

22

Sessions

2.2 THE NUMBERS OF THE AFRICA HOUSING FORUM

DIGITAL

18

Newsletters distributed via Mailchimp since February 24th

1,887

Audience reached



60% of Africa's population lives in slums without water, sanitation and healthcare and the number is expected to grow to over 1 billion by 2050.



OUMAR SYLLA DIRECTOR REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA UN HABITAT

111

Countries reached

16,000

Registration page views

2.3 THE NUMBERS OF THE AFRICA HOUSING FORUM

PAID ADS

1.5 MILLION

Saw the ads across Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn at least once 5.9k

Website visitors



We have had a demand of about 250,000 housing units annually in Kenya that requires collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders to support the Government's agenda in realizing this housing gap.





JANE MWANGI
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING
MINISTRY OF LAND, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF KENYA

111

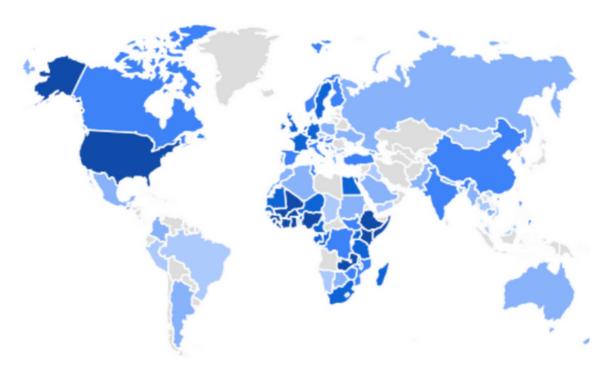
Countries reached

16,000

Registration page views

2.4 THE NUMBERS OF THE AFRICA HOUSING FORUM

Countries reached through website and social media outreach



25 African countries in attendance

Cameroon Cote d'Ivoire DR Congo Egypt Ethiopia Ghana Guinea Kenya Lesotho Liberia Malawi Morocco Mozambique Nigeria Rwanda Senegal Sierra Leone

South Africa South Sudan Sudan Tanzania Tunisia Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe

22 countries outside of Africa in attendance

Belgium
Bosnia &
Herzegovina
Brazil
Canada
Costa Rica
France
Germany

Greece Ireland Italy Liechtenstein Luxembourg Netherlands Phillippines Slovakia Spain Sweden Switzerland Portugal UAE UK USA

2.5 COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

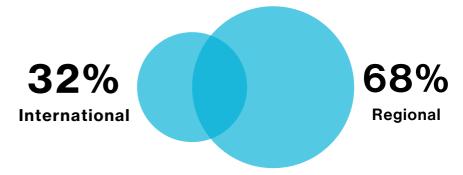


32 MEDIA STORIES

In total, we've achieved 32 media stories spread across international print, online and TV appearances as well as local media outlets within Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Ghana and the East Africa region.

COVERAGE BREAKDOWN

print, online and TV appearances



Media	Reach
5 TV appearances	4,143,670
5 radio interviews	4,908,360
9 notable print stories	2,257,894
13 notable online stories	7,165,470

2.5 COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA





2.6 OUTCOMES

The Africa Housing Forum provided an opportunity for Habitat for Humanity National Office leadership to engage with sector players for inspiration and learning.

The regional networking event opening up the following outcomes:

- Habitat for Humanity Kenya is establishing a partnership with Muungango wa Wanavijiji to work together on urban settlement programmes.
- HFH Lesotho learned of Rise a social enterprise with an aim at developing and improving the infrastructure, livelihoods and thus the socioeconomic status of low income countries in Southern Africa

 and are in discussions for a partnership.
- Habitat for Humanity Uganda hosted an inaugural National Housing Symposium in commemoration of World Habitat Day as part of their 40th Anniversary Celebration with over 250 people in attendance including ministers from the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development. The event has been deemed as an official event where annually housing initiatives will be highlighted and advanced.



3.1 AFRICA HOUSING FORUM DAYS 1, 2 AND 3

The inaugural Africa Housing Forum was held 12 to 14 May, a three-day hybrid event from the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi.

It was a jam-packed event attended by a number of industry and sector leaders all passionate about tackling some of the key issues Africa is facing around affordable, accessible, and sustainable housing.

The three days were complete with an itinerary of plenaries and tracks which aimed to cover different key themes and topics surrounding inclusivity in the housing sector, affordable housing, challenges and lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic, building sustainable cities and communities, responding to Africa's growing housing demand pressures, climate change and leveraging multi sector collaboration.

Day 1

The first day of the event kicked off with opening remarks from Maurice Makoloo, Africa Area Vice President for Habitat for Humanity International and an opening performance by Motra Music.

The opening speech set the scene for the three-day event as Vice President for Habitat for Humanity Maurice Makoloo spoke of the critical need to raise awareness within the Africa region's affordable housing ecosystem, the right to decent housing and the improvement of living conditions, especially for the vulnerable and marginalized communities.

The first plenary discussion took place where key speakers discussed the topic 'African Cities' Pandemic Response – Challenges and Lessons'. We were joined by key speakers to discuss Africa's response to the different challenges posed by the pandemic and the desire to "build back better, all that was taken away by Covid-19" as said by Debarl Inea, Sapphire Communications.

Two group breakout panels were organised to explore different important topics and issues surrounding housing in Africa under track 1: promoting inclusivity in the housing sector and track 2: supporting affordable housing.

In the afternoon, the second plenary discussion was also held in discussing 'Contributions of the housing sector to Africa's growing economies' and its integral role to growing and strengthening the economy. This point was echoed by Maurice Makoloo, Africa Area Vice President for Habitat for Humanity International who said, "Housing sector is a large contributor for a country's GDP. It is not anyone's responsibility but our collective responsibility. It's you and I to make it happen"

Day 2

To kick off the second day of the forum, pitches for the Innovation Awards took place covering the three categories: Shelter Tech, Best Practices and Public Policies.

Representatives for the 12 shortlisted candidates for each category took part in a pitch to highlight their respective innovative projects. Following the pitch event, voting took place where jury scores and audience votes at the event determined the winner in each category.

The third plenary discussion of the forum took place. This time, we looked at the topic 'Responding to Africa's growing housing demand pressures'.

The discussion explored the hard-hitting areas of the Africa region and the challenge we are currently facing that need immediate action. Speaking on the current situation in Kenya, it was evident how there is a large shortage in affordable housing for many. In fact, "Kenya has a house deficit of about 2 million houses. Only 2% of the constructed houses target low-income earners," according to Naphtali Nyabuto, Nyumba Mkononi.

Following the plenary discussions, two breakout sessions were held. In this sessions, different topics centred around housing in Africa under track 3: leveraging multi sector collaboration to achieve affordable housing and track 4: building sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11).

To wrap up the day, the exciting Innovation Awards Ceremony took place where winners across the three different categories were announced. The three winners — EcoAct Tanzania, EarthEnable, and Akiba Mashinani Trust — won following the morning's vote for their inspiring innovations with the ultimate aim to improve the shelter conditions of those who need it the most.

Congratulations and well done all!



One of the big issues with affordable housing is how there are so many problems that need solving before things can get better.



GAYATRI DATAR CO-FOUNDER AND CEO EARTHENABLE INC.

Day 3

In the morning of the forum's final day, the plenary discussion around 'Climate change and housing impact Curated' by World Green Building Council, Africa Region took place.

The discussion saw several industry leaders come together to talk about this important topic. The discussion reached the important conclusion that "We need climate friendly solutions on housing, Africa needs to take a step on mitigation and adoption of climate change" as said by Dennis Papa Odenyi Quansah - Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria Lead, EDGE Green Building Market Transformation Program, Climate Business Department, International Finance Corporation (climate finance).

Building on this discussion, a breakout session was held focusing on tackling inequalities in access to resilient housing in the region and how policies and urban planning can be used to address these issues. The breakout session addressed the challenges faced by many different communities in the Africa region, from people with disabilities to those in poverty, and the need to "build decent, climate sustainable home for all those who are in dire need of them" (Queen Sekhothali Martha Seeiso Mabhena of the Ndebele Kingdom, South Africa).

To wrap up the event, a closing ceremony was held with a summary and Vote of Thanks from Margaret Mengo, Director of Operations, Habitat for Humanity International, Africa Area Office.

To summarise the first-ever Africa Housing Forum, Maurice Makoloo, Vice President Habitat for Humanity, Africa area office, stated, "We must build dignity, hope and communities through housing to incubate dreams and inspire better future."



3.2 AGENDA: DAY 1

Talk	Speakers
Morning	
Welcome	Emcee, Nancy Muthoni
Opening remarks	Maurice Makoloo, Africa Area Vice President Habitat for Humanity International
Opening performance	Motra Music
Plenary Discussion: African Cities' Pandemic Response – Challenges and Lessons	 Moderator: Debarl Inea Maurice Makoloo, Africa Area Vice President, Habitat for Humanity International Marion Rono, Deputy Director Urban Renewal, Nairobi Metropolitan Service Dr. Catherine Ndinda, Research Director, Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa) Joseph Muturi, Chair, Slum Dwellers International
Remarks	 Oumar Sylla, Ag. Director Regional Office for Africa in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Patrick Canagasingham, COO Habitat for Humanity International Jane Mwangi, Housing Director, Housing and Urban Development, Government of Kenya
Summary	Emcee, Nancy Muthoni

3.2 AGENDA: DAY 1

Talk

Speakers

Afternoon

Breakout panel: 1.1 Addressing health challenges in urban built environments - Housing as a first defence against infectious diseases

Moderator: Mugure Njendu, Immediate Past President of the Architectural Association of Kenya and Producer, Built for Good

Breakout panel: 2.4 Land regularization experiences

Breakout panel: 3.1 Empowering women through land and housing rights

Moderator: Grace Ananda, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Habitat for Humanity Africa Area Office

Breakout panel: 4.1 Building and repurposing climate-resilient housing for the most vulnerable

Moderator: Florence Nyole, President, East Africa Institute of Architects

Plenary Discussion B. Contributions of the housing sector to Africa's growing economies

Moderator: Dr. Muhammad Gambo, Shelter Afrique

Breakout panel: 1.2 Housing finance and subsidies: pandemic response and recovery & beyond

Moderator: Kecia Rust, Founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa (CAHF)

Breakout panel: 3.2 Financing incremental construction (construction costs, financing ODC, rental)

Moderator: Robyn T. Emerson, Africa Housing Forum Manager and President, Women in Real Estate KE

Breakout panel: 4.2 Entrepreneurship and innovation – Appropriate Building materials (green financing)

18 3.2 AGENDA: DAY 3

Talk

Speakers

Morning

Plenary panel: Climate change and housing impact Curated by World Green Building Council, Africa Region Moderator: Vere Shaba, Head of Africa Programmes, World Green Building Council

Afternoon

Breakout panel: 1.4 Housing vulnerable social economic groups

Breakout panel: 2.1 Meeting the emerging and growing housing

Moderator: Josephine Muchogu, Lecturer, Jomo Kenyatta University for Agriculture & Technology

Breakout panel: 4.4 Supporting holistic urban planning and access to land/ Land value capture mechanisms

Moderator: Prof. Peter Ngau, Centre for Urban Innovations, University of Nairobi

AHF Summary and Vote of Thanks

Margaret Mengo, Director of Operations, Habitat for Humanity International, Africa Area Office

Art of Housing Performance



19 3.2 AGENDA: DAY 2

Talk

Speakers

Morning

Innovation Awards Ceremony

Shelter Tech Accelerator Launch

Afternoon

Plenary panel discussion: C. Responding to Africa's growing housing demand pressures

Moderator: Dereje Adugna, National Director, Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia

Breakout panel: 1.3 Governance mechanisms for resilient future cities (data + decision making)

Moderator: Margaret Mengo, Director of Operations, Habitat for Humanity Africa Area Office

Breakout panel: 2.3 Leveraging Africa's informal economy

Breakout panel: 3.3 Financing women for housing

Moderator: Daniel Mhina, Housing Finance, Habitat for Humanity Africa Area Office

Breakout panel: 4.3 Leveraging Inclusive Partnership to Deliver Affordable Housing at Scale

Innovation Awards Announcement Ceremony





AFRICA HOUSING FORUM INNOVATION AWARDS

Promoting and celebrating innovative approaches to improve housing conditions for low-income households at scale.

3.4 ABOUT THE AWARDS



The aim of the Innovation Awards is to demonstrate innovations and developments within the housing sector that look to celebrate and reward initiatives that address real needs and provide affordable, disaster-resilient, inclusive, and sustainable solutions with an added lens of post-pandemic consideration.

A collection of individuals were recruited to serve as judges for the Innovation Awards that will be a main feature of the Forum. The awards will highlight the mostinnovative approaches in Shelter Technology, Public Policy, and Inspiring Practices from the African continent.



12 Finalists

• 12 finalists (four from each category) were invited to present their initiatives in person to a panel of judges and hybrid audience at the Africa Housing Forum on May 13, 2022.



3 Winners

- 3 big winners (1 from each category) received a cash prize of US\$ 5,000.
- Finalists and winners benefitted from Habitat for Humanity and its partners' marketing and visibility efforts.
- Winners in each category were invited to join the Habitat for Humanity delegation and attend the World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland in June 2022, with paid travel and accommodation costs.



EXPLORING THE HEIGHTS

CASSAVA CONCRETE FOR LOW-COST HOUSING DELIVERY ORGANIZATION: KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY COUNTRY: UGANDA

ShelterTech Award for Technology (sponsored by the Hilti Foundation)

Technology innovations (product and services) that provide practical solutions to affordable housing challenges and can be commercially scaled and replicated to increase impact on low-income households and communities.

This category focuses on innovations from private sector.

The evaluation of the jury led to the selection of four finalists and one winner:



ANIX BUILDING SYSTEM ORGANIZATION: AGLA BUILDING CONTRACTORS COUNTRY: MALAWI



NYUMBA MKONONI ORGANIZATION: NYUMBA MKONONI LTD COUNTRY: KENYA

WINNER

EcoAct Tanzania upcycles plastic waste into alternative building materials to replace wood. Its energy efficient plastic extrusion technology repurposes waste and packaging materials into insect-proof and long lasting plastic timbers, which reduce and replace the use of wood. The plastic timber offers a 32 percent cost advantage over wood timber and does not rot or absorb water.

To incentives the collection of plastic waste and prevent ocean pollution, the social enterprise provides medical health insurance to poor families living in informal settlements, enhancing community engagement and improving livelihood for the vulnerable segments of the population.

By 2026 EcoAct Tanzania aims to prevent 500 tones of plastic waste from reaching the oceans, provide 1000 plus poor families with medical insurance, while making positive contribution towards deforestation.



GREEN BUILDING
ORGANISATION: ECOACT TANZANIA
COUNTRY: TANZANIA



Public Policies

Public policies across all levels of government that help to reduce housing deficit while taking into consideration the specific needs of minorities, vulnerable, and marginalized populations

The evaluation of the jury led to the selection of four finalists and one winner:



HOUSING FOR ALL
EGYPTIANS
ORGANISATION: SOCIAL
HOUSING AND
MORTGAGE FINANCE
FUND (SHMFF)
COUNTRY: EGYPT



Fundo para o Fomento de Habitação, FP

MELHORIA PROJECT ORGANISATION: FUNDO PARA O FOMENTO DE HABITAÇÃO, FUNDO PÚBLICO COUNTRY: MOZAMBIQUE



LESOTHO NATIONAL
HOUSING POLICY
ORGANISATION: MINISTRY
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND CHIEFTAINSHIP
COUNTRY: LESOTHO

WINNER

Muungano wa Wanavijiji, Akiba Mashinani Trust in collaboration with the Nairobi County Government researched and implemented an integrated development plan for Mukuru, to transform informal settlements into livable habitats. Informal settlements, which make up 2 percent of Nairobi's territory, are home to 50 percent of the city's population – living in deplorable conditions without access to basic facilities. Residents live under constant threat of eviction and face high level of financial exploitation as they are forced to pay higher prices for basic utilities and rent for poorer quality services.

Since 2021, the project has upgraded 100 houses benefitting more than 450 people. It has built 3 hospitals, 1 public school and 26 km of asphalt roads. In addition, water and sewage lines have been constructed to improve the hygiene standards of the area. By 2024, the project aims to expand the initiative to all the country's provinces, improve 2,000 houses of the vulnerable population and train about 500 craftsmen to replicate the techniques of resilient construction, which will benefit about 10,000 people.



GREEN BUILDING
ORGANISATION: ECOACT
TANZANIA
COUNTRY: TANZANIA



Best Practices

Practices originated by public or public-private partnerships, which contribute to improved communities and settlements and increased access to affordable housing for the most disadvantaged segments of society.

The evaluation of the jury led to the selection of four finalists and one winner:



THE TRANSACTION
SUPPORT CENTRE
ORGANISATION: 71POINT4
/ CENTRE FOR
AFFORDABLE HOUSING
FINANCE IN AFRICA
COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA



CLIMATE SMART TECH,
PLANNING & HOUSING
OBSERVATORY
ORGANISATION: CIVIC
FORUM ON HOUSING AND
HABITAT ZAMBIA (CFHHZ)
COUNTRY: ZAMBIA



IKEMELENG TEMPORARY
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
ORGANISATION: SOUTH
AFRICAN HOUSING AND
INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
(SAHIF)
COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA

WINNER

1.4 billion people live on unsealed dirt floors, which are a major cause of infectious and vector-borne diseases, respiratory illness and malnutrition. Concrete flooring is unsustainable and unaffordable for the majority of poor families living on a US\$ 2 per day income.

Earth Enable provides Rwandans with healthier homes by training local masons to craft an affordable and durable earthen floor. The floor is composed of natural materials (gravel, clay, sand, and other additives) and sealed with a layer of proprietary drying oil that makes the floor impermeable and easy to clean. Earthen floors offer 80 percent cost advantage over concrete floor.

The company has scaled rapidly since pivoting to a franchise model in 2021 upgrading 4,369 homes and 951 Early Childhood Development Centers, serving a total of 38,244 people. Earth Enable provides employment to rural communities, improving livelihoods and living standards by generating income and improving access to safe clean homes.



FRANCHISE MODEL AND
AFFORDABLE SUSTAINABLE
HOUSING
ORGANISATION:EARTH
ENABLE, INC
COUNTRY: RWANDA

3.4 EXHIBITIONS

The Africa Housing Forum featured two unique exhibitions centred around the theme of 'Fostering Inclusivity and Resilience in Housing in Africa' for a dynamic and immersive experience for all attendees, whether in-person or virtual.

What Home Means





The Art of Housing exhibition featured over 30 pieces created by young people answering the question of 'What Home Means'. These drawings were accompanied by descriptions covering the meaning of home to the individual young artists and were displayed inperson and virtually through an online virtual tour.



General exhibition

The general exhibition was an in-person, open space for organizations to hold a booth which attendees can visit and learn more about them.

Organizations who held booths in his general exhibition all focused on housing with some entrepreneurs supported by Habitat for Humanity also hosting their own booth.





3.4 EXHIBITIONS

12 exhibitor booths were available for the in-person exhibition. Thank you to all exhibitors who held booths during the Forum.



















MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

State Department for Housing and Urban Development.



4.1 STEERING COMMITTEE



















MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

State Department for Housing and Urban Development.



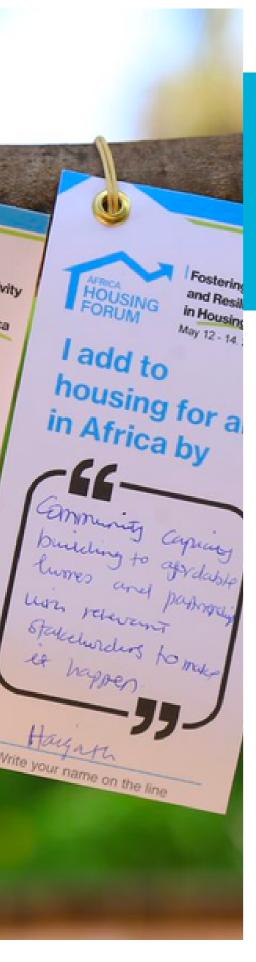












4.2 SPONSORS: UNITY MAKES STRENGTH

The inaugural Africa Housing Forum was a successful event that saw progressive discussions around solutions to tackle challenges in housing in the Africa region. Thanks to the support of sponsors and partners, the event was a great success for all delegates. From financial support, through taking part in organizational committee, suggesting speakers and speaking directly, to vision and guidance, our partners have contributed greatly to the success of the Housing Forum. Thank you to our partners and sponsors!

Organised by





Global Presenting Sponsor



The Hilti Foundation is a philanthropic non-profit organization based in Liechtenstein. The Foundation is a joint venture of the Hilti Family and the Hilti Group.

Regional Silver Sponsor: Funded by EU



Regional Sponsor:



AFRICA HOUSING FORUM 2022



Fostering Inclusivity and Resilience in Housing in Africa

MAY 12 - 14, 2022



Habitat for Humanity International Africa Area Office CVS Plaza, 3rd Floor Kasuku Lane, off Lenana Road P.O. Box 38948 – 00623 Nairobi, Kenya africahousingforum@habitat.org africahousingforum.org

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@hfhafrica

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