

NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL AWARDS



Hon. Judith Nabakooba, the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development with the winners of the #Home Equals National Awards

Welcome !

Greetings from Habitat for Humanity Uganda!

We are delighted to welcome you to our Newsletter, a platform dedicated to sharing the latest updates, impactful stories, and ongoing initiatives that are transforming lives and communities across Uganda. At Habitat for Humanity Uganda, we believe that everyone deserves a decent place to live and thrive; and through collaborative efforts, we continue to make this vision a reality.

In this Newsletter Edition, you will find inspiring stories of families who have gained access to safe and affordable housing, updates on our latest projects and partnerships, and insights into how we are working towards sustainable solutions for housing challenges in Uganda. We also highlight opportunities for you to get involved and be part of the movement towards building a world where no one is homeless.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Your support, engagement, and commitment help us create lasting change. We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to working together to build stronger communities, one home at a time.

Editorial team

This is #Home Equals Campaign



Some of the members of Parliamentary Forum on Housing

Yes! after two years of our #Home Equals Campaign participation, we bring you highlights of our engagement with policy makers, community champions, media professionals and residents of informal settlements.

From engaging with parliamentarians, ministers, municipal leaders and representatives of residents within informal settlements, our advocacy efforts have been loud and clear: we must make affordable housing, essential basic services and tenure security a priority.



The Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development with Habitat for Humanity Area Office and country office staff at the Home Equals launch



Top to Bottom: The Minister of Housing Hon. Persis Namuganza with HFHI Africa Area Office staff during a media briefing; Media Dialogue with journalists and editors; and HFHU staff at National Awards



The 'Small Steps Walk' during 2024 World Habitat Day

Extending WASH services within Kampala's Informal Settlements

Nakawa Market Sanitation Facility

Access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services remains a critical challenge for millions of people living in informal settlements worldwide. In Uganda, where 65% of the urban population resides in informal settlements, the lack of adequate WASH infrastructure exacerbates health risks, environmental degradation, and socio-economic inequalities. Addressing WASH challenges require collaborative efforts that integrate government interventions, community engagement, and innovative solutions tailored to the unique conditions of informal settlements.



The sanitation facility at Nakawa market

To improve WASH services, Habitat for Humanity Uganda through the **Home Equals** Campaign, partnered with Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) to improve WASH practices in Nakawa market and Kamwokya Informal Settlement. At Nakawa market, an 8-stance sanitation facility has been constructed to serve over **7,000** vendors and their customers accessing the market daily.

Additionally, 20 water points have been set within Kamwokya informal settlement and other informal settlements in collaboration with NWSC to provide low-cost clean and safe water to residents. Households get the water at UGX 100, which is 65% cheaper than the commercial water points. This has created opportunities for those involved in water vending, juice making, laundry services and other water-intensive small businesses to operate at minimal costs.



Output testing at one of the water points set up within the Kampala Informal Settlements



Inspection of the sanitation facility by Habitat for Humanity and Kampala Capital City Authority

Celebrating Innovation and Excellence: HFHU National Awards Recognize Housing Champions

Habitat for Humanity Uganda (HFHU) recently held the **#HomeEquals** National Awards recognizing excellence in affordable housing innovations, media reporting in informal settlements and community efforts towards land tenure security.

The event graced by the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Judith Nabakooba included awards for outstanding media coverage and innovative student projects that address housing challenges in Uganda within the context of informal settlements.

“We have discussed a holistic paper on the National Strategy for Affordable Housing and Cabinet supports the cause. We are looking at a lot of money because replacing slums houses with decent settlement requires significant investment”, said the Minister.

Hon. Roland Ndyomugenyi, the chairperson of the Parliamentary Forum on Housing (PFOH) commended Habitat for Humanity Uganda for its pivotal role in advocating for equitable housing solutions. “This initiative aligns with the broader vision of inclusive urbanisation and the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically on Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities”, he said.

Makerere University College of Engineering Art and Design had the largest delegation with 20 students who had participated in the University’s Affordable Housing Design Competition.

During the National Awards, participants were requested to scan on-table codes and join the HFHI Global “Invisible Billion” petition to the G7 Summit.

This provided an opportunity for partners and other housing advocates to endorse the petition.



The HFHU BOD Chair hands over a plaque to one of the participants from Makerere University



The Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development with the student category winner



Mukongoro Area Land Committee dancing as they received their Award from the Minister

Participating partners and guests included representation from Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development led by the senior minister, the chairperson of the Parliamentary Forum on Housing and UN-Habitat. Others included S4HL Coalition, National Media Group, Shelter and Settlements Alternatives (SSA), Cornerstone Engineering, Crest tanks Limited and a key influencer from the entertainment industry.

Mukongoro Area Land Committee in Kumi district was recognized after securing seventy-four (74) registrations for the Certificate of Customary Ownership.

Affordable Housing technologies- Use of ISSBs in Mayuge

In the heart of Mayuge Bukabooli subcounty, a group of young men work tirelessly under the morning sun. Sweat drips from their brows, but their spirits are high. They weren't just building houses—they are building a future. With each Interlocking Soil Stabilized Block (ISSB) they mold, they are laying the foundation for stronger homes and stronger lives.

For years, houses have been largely built using burnt bricks heavily impacting the environment because of the processes involved in burning bricks. Habitat for Humanity Uganda introduced ISSB technology and changed the direction that the use of the bricks was slowly taking the entire district. Instead of burning clay bricks in smoky kilns, the youth learned to make eco-friendly blocks using local soil, a little cement, and a hand-operated press machine.

"This is our new gold," says Daniel, a 19-year-old. "We're not just making blocks; we're making a future. When we received training, we did not know that this could even raise money for us."

Quick Facts about ISSBs

Interlocking Stabilized Soil Blocks (ISSBs) are eco-friendly, cost-effective building materials made by compressing a mixture of soil, a stabilizing agent (such as cement or lime), and water.

Unlike traditional fired bricks, ISSBs do not require burning, reducing deforestation and carbon emissions. The blocks are designed to interlock, eliminating the need for excessive mortar, making construction faster and more affordable.

Why you should consider ISSBs

Affordable & Cost-Effective

- Reduces overall construction costs by up to 30%.
- Minimal cement and mortar usage compared to conventional bricks.

Eco-Friendly & Sustainable

- Reduces deforestation as no firewood is needed for burning.
- Low carbon footprint, making it a greener choice.

Durable & Strong

- High compressive strength and resistance to weathering.
- Ideal for constructing affordable homes, schools, and community structures.

Fast & Efficient Construction

- Interlocking design makes building faster and requires less skilled labour.
- Can be used for a variety of structures, including walls, water tanks, and paving.



Youth involved in making ISSBs

The blocks are unique—they interlock like puzzle pieces, reducing the need for mortar and making construction faster and cheaper. With their skills, some of the youths have become trainers, entrepreneurs, and builders.

Sarah, a mother, sits nearby preparing lunch for the group as she watches the youth stick the blocks to build her new home.

"I never imagined my house would be built by young people from my own community," she says with a smile.

After less than 10 days, this group has the blocks needed for the construction of Sarah's home..

Habitat for Humanity Uganda has already constructed eighteen houses using the ISSB technology in Mayuge district with funding from Habitat for Humanity Netherlands and the Foster Foundation.



A stack of ISSBs at a site ready for use

JANUARY – MARCH 2025

Enhancing Housing for Urban Communities in Informal Settlements: Insights from the Home Equals Campaign Municipal Dialogues

Habitat for Humanity Uganda, in collaboration with ACTogether and the National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda, convened community dialogues under the Home Equals Campaign. The discussions, themed “Improvement of Housing for Urban Migrants within Informal Settlements through Collaborative Participation,” held in Nakawa, Kawempe, and Lubaga divisions. These dialogues built upon HFHU's pilot study, which identified major barriers to equitable housing, including limited citizen participation, overcrowded living conditions, inadequate access to services, and insecure land tenure.

Participants across the three divisions highlighted common challenges including poorly constructed buildings, structures on drainage channels or road reserves, to escalating rental costs and absence of tenure security. Additionally, the water supply is insufficient for commercial use, making it unaffordable for many.



HFHU Communication and Advocacy Manager explaining the importance of empowered participation

Participants including representatives of residents within the informal settlements recommended quarterly dialogue sessions at division and settlement levels to foster continuous engagement between stakeholders. They also recommended the need for stronger enforcement of local bylaws through collaboration between local councils and KCCA to improve housing compliance and coordinated urban planning efforts between KCCA, local authorities, and communities to advocate for infrastructure development and affordable housing.

Additionally, special planning areas should be designated to support incremental development within informal settlements for sustainable urban growth.



Participants of one of the municipal forum

Representatives of residents of informal settlements called upon their leaders to initiate urban farming and waste recycling to enhance living conditions and create employment opportunities.

Several community-driven solutions public barazas and community radios to increase awareness and advocacy for better housing policies were recommended. participants emphasized the need to utilize other avenues such as community savings groups to help residents within informal settlements to access to government livelihood programs. This will not only empower them economically but also strengthen their capacity to afford better housing and basic essential services.



A member of the forum making his submission

Introducing our New Team Members



Evelyn Frances Aguti - Program Director

Ms. Evelyn Frances Aguti joined HFHU as the **Programs Director**. Evelyn brings over 20 years of experience managing humanitarian and development programs across multiple countries.

She has extensive expertise in strategic planning, resource mobilization, partnership building, and stakeholder management. Evelyn is skilled in securing and managing large grants, ensuring compliance with donor requirements, and delivering impactful and sustainable projects. She is also passionate about gender and disability inclusion and fostering innovative solutions to improve the lives of vulnerable communities.

Sumani Ganafa - Partnership & Resource Mobilization Manager

Mr. Ganafa Sumani joined Habitat for Humanity Uganda as the **Partnership & Resource Mobilization Manager**.

Ganafa brings over 10 years of experience in resource mobilization, partnership building, and project management, having led diverse programs in youth empowerment, HIV prevention, education, and gender inclusion. He holds advanced degrees in Social Work and Social Sector Planning from Kyambogo University, Makerere University, and the University of Lincoln (UK). Ganafa is passionate about fostering sustainable solutions to uplift vulnerable communities and looks forward to working with all of you to advance HFHU's mission.



Patience Evelyn Alwoch - Human Resource Manager

Patience Evelyn Alwoch, joined Habitat for Humanity Uganda as the Human Resources Manager.

She has previously worked at TASO Uganda as the Human Resources Manager for the USAID LPHS Acholi Project.

She's skilled in conflict resolution and enjoys helping others navigate challenges effectively. She's excited to meaningfully contribute to HFHU's projects that directly impact communities and help families build homes, and looks forward to collaborating with all of us, and learning from each of our experiences in making a positive impact.



Nicholas Owuor- Interim National Director

Nicholas is a multifaceted professional with over 20 years' experience in roles ranging from country-level program manager to regional level strategic advisor providing specialized expertise mainly in integrated WASH, Health/Nutrition and Public Health emergency and recovery programs. His substantive role at Habitat for Humanity International-Africa Area Office is Senior Specialist, Basic Services – Africa. He is currently supporting Habitat for Humanity Uganda as Interim National Director.



Spiridon Atukunda - Project Officer WASH

Atukunda Spiridon joined HFHU as a Project Officer – WASH, based at our Mayuge Field Office. Atukunda brings a wealth of experience to the role, having previously worked with the Lutheran World Federation as a WASH Engineer. During his time there, he designed and supervised over 37 piped solar water pumping schemes, demonstrating his expertise in water supply systems.

Atukunda is passionate about using his technical skills to improve the lives of vulnerable communities and is eager to bring his practical, problem-solving, and creative skills to HFHU.

PICTORIAL



HFHU with other stakeholders during the commemoration of Buganda Water day as part of pre-events for the global Water Week



Pupils involved in a practical session on making pads to improve menstrual hygiene supported through the BMZ project



Community members participate in Eco-stove making in Kanyana Village supported by the Foster Family Foundation in Mayuge district



Pupils at Nakasuwa Primary School learning pad-making under the BMZ project



The Construction Officer- Mayuge supervising latrine construction at Bugumya Primary School as part of improving sanitation



HFHU staff appreciating and bidding farewell to Ms Ruth Mitimigi following her support to the Uganda National Office



A pupil of Bugoto Primary School demonstrating to his peers how the hand-washing facility works



The Program Director presenting about the Habitat Volunteer program at the International University of East Africa

Follow us

X : @Habitat4uganda

LinkedIn : Habitat for Humanity Uganda

Facebook : Habitat for Humanity Uganda

Instagram : Habitat for Humanity Uganda

Youtube : Habitat for Humanity Uganda

We want to hear from you

Write to us

paulm@hfhuganda.org

adiana@hfhuganda.org