

Housing Improvements in Developing Countries

A survey of projects supported by
Non-Governmental Organizations
in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark

by

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Annette Wong Jere

The material in this catalogue is believed to be accurate. However, there are differences in the level of detail among the projects, and there are probably some mistakes and misinterpretations of the completed questionnaires. LCHS plans to produce a revised catalogue if there is an interest. Please send us your corrections, additions, comments and the names of any other organizations that should be included.

Thank you to all the organizations who took the time to answer the questionnaire and send extra documentation, including those who do not appear in the catalogue.

Lund, 24 October, 1991

Printed by KF-Sigma, Lund, Sweden, 1991
Memorandum 1991 M2
Housing Improvements in Developing Countries
ISSN 1101-79X
ISRN LCHS-A3-MEM--2--SE

This report can be ordered from
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Why a survey of Nordic NGOs and housing improvements?

Housing is a rapidly growing issue in most developing countries, especially in urban areas. The United Nations estimates that the urban population will constitute half of the total world population in the year 2000, with the greatest increase taking place in developing countries.

At the same time as the population increases, the production of low cost housing far from meets demand. As a result many people in developing countries live in shanty towns and squatter areas, often illegally. The problems related to housing are not just the shortage of dwellings but also overcrowding, poor ventilation and lack of infrastructure like water and sewage, which contribute to poor health.

For the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH) in 1987, the United Nations set the goal of solving the worst housing problems by the year 2000. This means providing new dwellings for 150,000 people each day. In spite of all efforts to now, the situation has not improved.

To solve housing problems two things are fundamental: people themselves must have the chance to improve their own living conditions, and housing improvements must be low cost to meet the massive need.

As non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in contrast to many governmental agencies, generally work closely with the intended beneficiaries and community based organizations (CBOs), many see them as having the potential to play a very important and effective role in development, including the housing sector.

The NGO approach is a complete reversal of the strategies formerly applied by most private, governmental or international development agencies as it depends on full participation by the beneficiaries of projects. Many groups, however, continue to force aid and assistance programmes on villagers, making them the recipients of development aid rather than fully fledged development agents responsible for their own choices and destiny.¹

Aid agencies in the Nordic countries² as well as international donors and governments of developing countries, have viewed housing projects as social welfare, without particular development potential. Only recently has there been increasing interest in improving housing for those living in the worst conditions.

Utskottet delar synen att ökad uppmärksamhet bör riktas mot problemen i storstädernas slum, inte minst på miljöområdet. Enligt vad utskottet har erfarit studerar SIDA för närvarande möjligheterna till

¹ B Schneider, *The Barefoot Revolution, A Report to the Club of Rome*, IT Publications, London, 1988.

² Scandinavia (Sweden, Denmark and Norway) plus Finland.

fattigdomsinriktat, kvinnoinriktat och miljörelaterat bistånd i slumområden.

Den snabba urbaniseringen inom u-länderna som inneburit att fattigdom och miljöproblem i högre grad än tidigare drabbat slumområdena i storstäderna har drivit fram ett behov av insatser även på bostadsområdet.³

IYSH has contributed to this change, in part by raising awareness among local organizations in developing countries of the important role housing projects play in promoting social and economic development. The old idea that industrial investment would automatically benefit poor people seems to be losing ground.

In Sweden IYSH led to the formation of Shelter Sweden to act as an umbrella organization for NGOs and housing issues in developing countries.

NGOs have been responsible for an increasing share of the development aid budget in industrialized countries, not least in Sweden. Although relatively few organizations currently support housing improvements, it is clear that the important role Nordic NGOs have come to play in development work in general will, with time, also include housing.

The Lund Centre for Habitat Studies (LCHS) at Lund University in Sweden has been working with issues of improved housing since 1979. Because of our own interest in the area we thought it would be useful to get an overview of the projects supported by Nordic NGOs that include some kind of housing improvement. To know what is being done is the first step to planning appropriate research that better meets the needs of NGOs.

3 Sveriges Riksdag, Utrikesutskottets betänkande 1190/91:UU15: Internationellt utvecklingsamarbete, page 65. (Unofficial translation by the author) "The (parliamentary) committee (on foreign affairs) shares the view that more attention must be paid to the issue of urban slums, not least in the area of the environment. The committee understands that SIDA is currently looking at possibilities of development aid directed at the poor, particularly women, and related to the environment in slums.

Rapid urbanization in developing countries, which has brought much more poverty and environmental degradation than found previously in urban slums, has created the need for efforts in the area of housing as well."

Background

Aims and limits of the survey

The aim of the survey was to get a picture of what is being done in the area of improved housing in developing countries by non-governmental organizations in Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. The descriptions of projects are presented in a small catalogue which forms a basis for exchange of contacts, experiences and knowledge among organizations, and for making research results and field experiences more accessible to all. The survey can also help identify areas where more research is needed, or where greater efforts should be made to spread findings.

Housing improvements are taken in the broad sense, to include both construction and upgrading of houses, as well as other measures to improve housing conditions. Examples are granting of credits, technical advice, development and production of building materials, and improvement of infrastructure like water and sewage.

However, it should be pointed out that the project descriptions presented include only improvements to individual dwellings, not neighbourhoods.

The projects presented are either current or recently completed.

Method

To find out which NGOs might be supporting projects of interest for the survey, contact was taken with the national aid authorities: SIDA, DANIDA, FINNIDA and NORAD. Names of NGOs were also collected from networking organizations like Biståndsinformation/BIFO and church mission councils. The descriptions of the projects are based on a questionnaire sent to relevant NGOs, complemented with information and material provided by or about the organizations.

The questionnaire was sent to 119 Nordic NGOs. Answers were received from 66, of which 32 support projects relevant to this survey. All except five⁴ (due to lack of information) are described in this catalogue. Of the organizations that have not responded, 12 are believed to support projects of interest. The distribution of the organizations is not even as can be seen below. This is partly because the num-

4 FORUT, Solidaritetsaksjon for utvikling, PB 300, N-2801 Gjøvik, Norway (Housing/rehabilitation for refugees in Sri Lanka).

Msingi Friendship Society, Viittakivi International Centre, SF-14700 Hauho, Finland (Village school and teachers' housing, Singinda, Tanzania).

The Norwegian Union of Seventh-Day Adventists (Adventistsamfunnet, Norge) Holmenkollveien 31, N-0376 Oslo 3, Norway.

Svalorna Latinamerikasektionen, Barnängsgatan 23, S-116 41 Stockholm, Sweden (Questionnaire sent to a volunteer working in Chile, not yet returned).

The Swedish Union of Seventh-Day Adventists, Box 536, S-101 27 Stockholm, Sweden.

ber of NGOs that support housing projects varies among the four countries, and because Finland has fewer NGOs.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of organizations contacted</i>	<i>Number of organizations responding</i>	<i>Number of responding organizations that support housing improvements</i>
Sweden	53	33	19
Denmark	21	12	5
Finland	18	7	2
Norway	27	14	6
Total	119	66	32

Conclusions

The results of the survey confirm that very few NGOs in the Nordic countries support projects which have improved housing as a main objective. In many cases the housing aspect complements a project in another field like education or health, where the housing component, for example, consists of constructing staff houses.

In the developing countries, on the other hand, many local organizations are interested in low cost housing. Their demand for both technical and financial support is growing, but there is little response from the donors. Why?

One important reason could be the history of NGOs in the Nordic countries. Many of them started as solidarity groups or religious missions which grew and/or changed to include activities in agriculture, health and education. They have no tradition of working with housing. Many of them may have felt that specialized, professional knowledge and experience are necessary, and were not willing to take the risk of starting housing activities without more technical support. Inadequate knowledge and experience could lead to projects in which quantity is given priority over quality.

Housing might also be too big an undertaking for a single NGO, if it is seen as a full scale construction programme providing dwellings. But NGOs are concerned with the issue and approach it through smaller components, either as an aspect of another programme, or especially through education and training. Many NGOs support training in crafts, household and building skills that can indirectly lead to improved housing quality.

Another reason has been, and perhaps still is, the tendency of governmental aid authorities to see housing as social welfare benefiting a few, rather than as an overall development project. This policy has important consequences for NGOs when they seek support for projects through government agencies. According to Shelter Afrique, a Pan-African housing organization, it is much easier to get financing for housing improvements as part of a health, education, or water project, than for an explicit housing project. NGOs have their own resources too, but then they are more likely to focus on small scale programmes with a housing component.

Among the organizations included in the catalogue, SADEL (the Swedish Association for Development of Low-Cost Housing), the Nicarauác Association (Sweden), and the Danish International Human Settlement Service are among the few to focus on housing. Outside the Nordic countries the situation is somewhat different. NGOs working with housing, like DESWOS (German Development Assistance for Social Housing) in Germany, seem to concentrate on developing their own competence to support housing programmes in developing countries.

The projects supported, and the kind of support, have some common characteristics. Several can be attributed to the background of the NGOs, discussed above, and the environment in which they work, national or organizational policies, etc.

In most of the projects described in this catalogue, housing improvement is part of an integrated programme and/or emergency relief, where the improvement aims at solving a housing problem for as many as possible of the target group at a low cost. One way to reduce building costs is by self-help construction, which is used by most projects to some extent. Other important reasons for actively involving the beneficiaries in construction are to make the project appropriate to their needs and living styles, and to help them identify with the project, making them aware that they are responsible for the improvement of their own living conditions. However, in some cases the beneficiaries of the project neither participate in building nor pay for the dwelling.

Few of the projects seem to experiment with materials, building techniques, or design to improve the quality of the dwelling and adapt it to climate, energy use patterns, etc. Still, NGOs could more easily support pilot projects than a local housing institution as they come from outside, have new or different knowledge, and can afford to test non-traditional ideas. NGOs could therefore play an important role in gaining new experiences and knowledge. DESWOS and SADEL are examples of organizations whose ideas have been accepted and have even influenced the national housing policy. However, competence is fundamental if the result of a pilot project is to be useful.

The need for competence when working with housing in developing countries is underlined by the difficulties faced by experienced housing organizations, as well as professional architects and engineers offices.

Almost half of the projects are in Latin America, while the rest are equally distributed between Africa and Asia. This can be compared with development aid as a whole which by tradition, at least in Sweden, has been concentrated to Africa. It is not possible to say if the results of this survey reflect a general trend in support to housing improvements in the Third World.

One possible reason for this pattern might be that the organizational level and/or living standards are higher in Latin America. Until recently most people in Africa have been legal residents of rural areas, even when they spent longer periods in town. In some countries the policy has been to encourage people to remain in the rural areas or move back to the land, through rural rather than urban development programmes. Still, the urban population is growing quickly, which increases the need for urban housing.

Descriptions of organizations and their projects

Twenty-six organizations and their projects are presented below in alphabetical order, according to their name in their country. It should be pointed out that the project descriptions are based on our reading of the information received from the organization itself, i.e. the completed questionnaires and other information material enclosed. All costs are converted into US dollars and the figures are not exact.

Afrikagruppernas Rekryterings Organisation (Africa Groups of Sweden – Recruitment Organization)

Solidaritetshuset, Barnängsgatan 23, S-116 41 Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone (+46) 08-644 04 25, Telefax (+46) 08-644 93 95

The organization supports national reconstruction and self determination in independent states, above all in Southern Africa. The support to projects in the region includes recruiting volunteers.

Project – Assisted self help housing project for Campinho and Ilha de Madeira residential areas in Mindelo City, Cape Verde

The self help housing project is the main part of a program in two areas of Mindelo, where the majority of the inhabitants are very poor and live in shacks built of planks and old oil drums. Each family can build a new house with financial, technical and organizational support. The project also includes improving the water system, building toilets, day care centres and service houses for older people without families. The project is a model for similar projects in other parts of the country.

Aim	Help people to improve their living situation.
Target group	Around 500 families living in the two areas.
Local organization	Ministry of Housing.
Time period	Start in 1985.
Housing	Building 500 new dwellings in existing residential areas and “expansion” areas. A few families in adequate houses have received support to improve the dwellings, e.g. install a toilet.
Building materials	The general policy is that people choose materials themselves, so most dwellings are traditional. Some houses are built using appropriate technology to improve indoor climate, avoid expensive imported timber for formwork and use local materials like stone and minerals.
Infrastructure	The housing areas include technical and social infrastructure.
Granting of credits	Each family can borrow \$1,587 at 5% interest, paid back over 20 years. Approximate monthly cost \$8.
Technical advice	Help with plans, building permission, instruction, control, etc. given to the families.
Others	Help with transport of materials, equipment, etc.
Self help construction	Each family is responsible for organizing construction of its own dwelling. The members mainly assist skilled workers.
Cost per dwelling	\$1,600 from the project and families’ own contributions ranging from a few hundred dollars to more than \$800.
Subsidies	Are given in form of low interest loans.
Total project cost	Around \$1,600,000.

Financed by	The national aid program of Luxemburg, SIDA, AGIS, Peace Corps, Swedish Ministry of Housing, IKEA Foundation.
Success/strength	—
Problems/weakness	—
Documentation	—

Caritas Sverige

P.O. Box 4098, S-102 62 Stockholm, Sweden

Telephone (+46) 08-714 86 22, Telefax (+46) 08-702 05 55

Caritas International is the aid agency of the Catholic Church, a federation of groups in over 130 countries. Caritas Sverige consist of around 60 local organisations in Sweden, and has financial support from SIDA through the Swedish Mission Council's Office for International Development Cooperation.

Project – Housing in Kungkujang Village, The Gambia

During 1986–1988 the Swedish Mission Council supported a very successful project to construct 25 houses. This is a new project based on the previous experience. The target group lives in the area covered by the Swedish Save the Children (Rädda Barnen) programme to develop schools and health care.

Aim	To provide adequate housing which will help prevent depopulation of the village and allow youths to continue family farming; to raise the overall living standard, including health, especially of children.
Target group	Poor peasant farmers from the Christian Mandiako minority, originally from Guinea-Bissau.
Local organization	St. Francis Mission, Diocese of Banjul.
Time period	Two years, pending approval and funding.
Housing	Build 35 new houses.
Building materials	Cement strengthened mudbricks, sheet metal roofs.
Infrastructure	Toilets, wells (contributed by Caritas – The Gambia and not included in project costs).
Granting of credits	Yes
Technical advice	From the parish priest, Irish Holy Ghost father, and local supervisors.
Self help construction	Production of mudbricks and some construction. School children participate for practical education.
Cost per dwelling	About \$1,200
Subsidies	Yes. All purchased building materials and labour costs for construction the family cannot do itself.
Total project cost	Around \$40,000
Financed by	SIDA \$32,000 and St. Eugenia Catholic Parish \$8,000.
Success/strength	The previous project showed that this group of immigrants who are discriminated against could improve their living conditions with collective efforts.
Problems/weakness	None.
Documentation	Evaluation, progress and final reports of the previous project. Official project proposal submitted to SIDA.

Comment

Schools will be equipped with solar panels to enable the students to study in the evenings. Adult education and literacy classes are planned. The previous project contributed a great deal to make life easier for women. This project was particularly recommended to LCHS by the Swedish Mission Council, Office of International Development Cooperation.

Centrum för Kooperativa Studier och Verksamhet Comunidad (Comunidad)

P.O. Box 15128, S-104 65 Stockholm, Sweden

Telephone (+46) 08-41 01 47, Telefax (+46) 08-644 59 85

The association carries out information work in Sweden, publishes two newsletters, *Comunidad* and *Söderut*, and supports projects in Latin America through sister groups in Uruguay and Chile.

Project – Ecological village in Montevideo, Uruguay

The project will be a model village including organic cultivation and ecological techniques. In the future the village will function as a training centre.

Aim	Ecological and social development in Latin America.
Target group	—
Local organization	REDES – AT (Network for Social Ecology).
Time period	1989–1993.
Housing	Building 10 multi-family houses and rebuilding two houses.
Building materials	Some houses will be built of earth.
Infrastructure	—
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	—
Self help construction	Less than 40%
Cost per dwelling	Around \$350/m ²
Subsidies	Yes, as a part of the project is financed by SIDA.
Total project cost	Around \$500,000
Financed by	SIDA 60%, Comunidad 10% and the people in the village.
Success/strength	—
Problems/weakness	Participants' shortage of time as they have to earn their living at the same time as they work for the project.
Documentation	—

Project – Ecological training centre in Villa Franca, Santiago, Chile

Aim	To promote self reliance, participation and ecological solutions for the dwellings.
Target group	Inhabitants in the poor suburbs of Santiago.
Local organization	IEP (Institute of Political Ecology).
Time period	1991–1993.
Housing	No
Building materials	See Technical advice.
Infrastructure	No
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	The centre will give courses and have workshops focussing on how to build and improve the housing situation through use of locally adapted ecological building materials, energy saving stoves, etc.
Self help construction	No
Cost per dwelling	—
Subsidies	—
Total project cost	Around \$100,000
Financed by	SIDA 25%, the rest by others.
Success/strength	Too early to say except that the responsible group has worked for five years in the area.
Problems/weakness	Too early to say.
Documentation	The project is too new.

DACAAR – The Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees

c/o Danish Refugee Council, P.O. Box 53, DK-1002 Copenhagen, Denmark
Telephone (+45) 33 91 27 00, Telefax (+45) 33 32 84 48

DACAAR mainly supports projects for Afghan refugees in Pakistan and rehabilitation of rural areas in Afghanistan. The following organizations are members of DACAAR; Danish People's Relief Association, Danish Association for International Cooperation, Danish Refugee Council and Caritas Denmark.

Project – Rehabilitation program in Afghanistan

The improvement and building of new dwellings forms one small part of the rehabilitation program in four different places in Afghanistan.

Aim	The overall aim is to help the resident population and returning refugees to reconstruct selected local areas to help their re-integration.
Target group	Afghans who were refugees in Pakistan, were displaced within the country or remained in the area. Refugees or residents whose houses were destroyed by war or earthquake receive pre-fabricated roof beams and window and door lintels.
Local organization	Cooperation with local councils (shuras).
Time period	Start in 1989.
Housing	Each beneficiary family will be provided with sufficient precast elements to construct a two-room house with a kitchen or store-room.
Building materials	Local production of precast concrete elements.
Infrastructure	—
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	Yes
Self help construction	The houses are built by the families themselves using precast elements and local materials (earth).
Cost per dwelling	—
Subsidies	The precast elements are sold at a subsidized price, approximately 20% of cost. If the family still cannot afford it, the price can be reduced.
Total project cost	\$2,800,000
Financed by	DANIDA 90% and DACAAR 10%
Success/strength	—
Problems/weakness	Continued fighting and no established authority complicates implementation.
Documentation	Annual reports

Dansk International Bosætningservice (Danish International Human Settlement Service)

Klostertorvet 9⁴, DK-8000 Århus C, Denmark
Telephone (+45) 86 19 01 69, Telefax (+45) 86 19 27 97

DIB was founded as a result of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. DIB offers expertise and aid in the areas of physical planning and building in relation to integrated housing projects including in addition to housing, income generating activities, health and information/training.

Project – House building using self supporting soil vaults in Bolivia

This pilot project takes place in two areas, Lahuachaca and Choquenaira, in the region of La Paz. The project is expected to create a base for bigger projects.

Aim	To test the vault concept and the tromb walls as ways to get better and cheaper housing.
Target group	Poor peasants and workers.
Local organization	CEPRODES (Centre for Social Promotion and Development).
Time period	1/7 1990 – 30/6 1991
Housing	Building five new dwellings.
Building materials	Use of soil (adobe) for the self supported vault roofs.
Infrastructure	No
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	Is given on building vaults.
Others	Solar heating through building of tromb walls.
Self help construction	60%
Cost per dwelling	\$60 – 1,200
Subsidies	No
Total project cost	\$313,300
Financed by	DANIDA
Success/strength	Good organization at the grassroots and near achievement of the aim.
Problems/weakness	—
Documentation	Video films and a report will be finished in August 1991.

Project – Integrated housing project for refugees in Cambodia

This project takes place 35 km south of Phnom Penh. The project consists of wooden module houses designed by DIB to save materials and to ease future extension of the houses.

Integrated in the project is family-based farming and fishing, water supply, toilets and a small factory and education unit making prefabricated building materials, furniture, etc. Renewable energy in the form of solar generated electricity will be introduced.

Aim	To test DIB's wood-saving module concept and to demonstrate the necessity of integrating income generating activities, as well as preventive health care.
Target group	Refugees and homeless.
Local organization	BECHA (Bureau d'Etude de Construction et de l'Habitat).
Time period	December 1991 – July 1993.
Housing	Building 20 houses, 1 village hall, 1 school building, 1 factory.
Building materials	Module construction.
Infrastructure	Water supply, 2 shared manual pumps/taps. Family toilets. Separate 1.1 ha. farming plots and fishing opportunities for each family. Production of prefabricated building elements, furniture, etc. as well as education programmes for farmers, fishermen and factory workers (carpenters).
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	Is given on how to construct the modules, how to build the houses, to construct wells, to manage a family farm, to fish; carpentry training includes use of modern equipment. Building constructed jointly by trainees from the School of Skilled Education (carpentry), Phnom Penh, and the refugees who will live in the houses. Construction is video filmed and instructional videos are distributed in the country to encourage others to use the concept.
Others	Solar generated electricity combined with diesel power to the factory. Wind power test programme to collect data for a future wind power programme.
Self help construction	60%
Cost per dwelling	\$800–1,200 (38 m ² /4 persons; 68 m ² /10 persons)
Total project cost	\$569,000
Subsidies	No
Financed by	DANIDA
Success/strength	The first and only NGO in Cambodia. BECHA was set up by DIB and approved by the Cambodian Parliament during DIB's stay in the country.

Problems/weakness	Cambodia has still to be made a priority country by western donors.
Documentation	Video will be produced for documentation and as PR material.

Project – Re-establishment of the Academy of Architecture, Phnom Penh

DIB and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture in Copenhagen propose to re-establish the Institute of Physical and Urban Planning in Cambodia. Funds have not yet been granted, but negotiations are underway with DANIDA.

Aim	To reconstruct the Institute of Physical and Urban Planning to develop local competence prior to the massive relocation of refugees and homeless.
Target group	Students at the partially re-established Academy.
Time period	Probably three years from Spring, 1992.
Technical advice	Teaching in Phnom Penh and some special training in Copenhagen for local teachers.
Infrastructure	Supply of educational material and technical aid.
Total cost	Est. \$1,500,000.
Financed by	DANIDA (proposed)
Success/strength	Re-establishment of the Academy which has previously had a very good reputation. Contribution to development of physical planning capacity to avoid spontaneous settlements.
Problems/weakness	The level of the students is rather low, and the architectural tradition was dominated by the Soviet Union for the last 20 years. Students speak Russian or French, although English has now priority as the teaching language at university level.
Documentation	Videofilms will as usual be a major part of DIB's documentation.

DIAKONIA

Älvsjö Gårdsväg 3, S-125 30 Älvsö, Sweden

Telephone (+46) 08-749 15 00, Telefax (+46) 08-99 86 19

Diakonia is the aid agency of the association of Free Churches in Sweden. It supports emergency relief, development projects and humanitarian aid in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Central and South America.

Project – Integrated development in slum areas in Bangkok, Thailand

The project is an integrated effort to improve the living conditions for people in slums, of which housing improvement is one part.

Aim	To move families from the slums to their own dwellings outside Bangkok.
Target group	Large families in the slum.
Local organization	Authorities in Bangkok.
Time period	1989–1991
Housing	—
Building materials	—
Infrastructure	—
Granting of credits	Yes
Technical advice	—
Self help construction	—
Cost per dwelling	Around \$635
Subsidies	50%
Total project cost	\$213,000
Financed by	DIAKONIA and the authorities in Bangkok.
Success/strength	Better housing and environment, participation of the families in the activities.
Problems/weakness	Difficult for families to raise their own contribution.
Documentation	Yes

Framtiden i våra händer – Gambiagrupperna (The Future in Our Hands and The Gambia Groups)

c/o Barbro Eketorp, Stora Benhamra, S-18 697 Brottbys, Sweden
Telephone (+46) 0762-30 220

The organization works for a just distribution of the world's resources and solidarity. The activities which focus on kitchens and schools are implemented by sister groups and other organizations. This project is managed by the organization's Gambia group.

Pilot Project – Kitchens and stoves in Sotokoi Village, The Gambia

Aim	General aims were to find out if the stoves made for schools by the organization could be adapted for poor families and to see how much work the families could contribute with to make the stoves and kitchens economically accessible. Specific aims were improvement of women's and children's health by improving the indoor environment, and time saving for the women.
Target group	The village, mainly the women and children.
Local organization	Sotokoi village.
Time period	December 1990 – April 1991
Housing	Building kitchens and stoves for 60 families.
Building materials	Burnt bricks for the stoves, mud blocks for the kitchens.
Infrastructure	—
Granting of credits	—
Technical advice	Is given by the employed project leader in building and using the kitchens and stoves.
Self help construction	The families help to build the kitchens.
Cost per dwelling	The cost of each kitchen is around \$190.
Subsidies	No
Total project cost	\$21,000
Financed by	SIDA 80% and the organization 20%
Success/strength	All village families cooperate with the project leader.
Problems/weakness	Lack of planning.
Documentation	Reports.

Föreningen Nicarauác (The Nicarauác Association)

Nationsgatan 3, S-223 60 Lund, Sweden

Telephone (+46) 046-11 66 88 or 040-11 57 71

The association has given technical and financial support to Nicaragua, especially in building and planning. Recently work has concentrated on technical support to a local NGO with similar aims as the association. The local NGO runs the project below which is part of a community development programme "Social Investments in the Mining Sector in El Limón and La Libertad".

Project – Improved housing in the villages Mina El Limón and La Libertad, Nicaragua

Aims	To create a working local administration and conditions for the participation of the population in the development of the community, to improve living conditions.
Target group	The poorest families who wanted to participate and accepted the conditions, like paying back the loans.
Local organization	CIPDC-Nicaraguác Centre for Investigation, Planning and Community Development-Nicaraguác.
Time period	January 1990 – September 1991
Housing	Building 30 new dwellings in El Limón and 10 in La Libertad, improvement of 30 dwellings in El Limón and 29 in La Libertad.
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	Installation of electricity, water and sewage.
Granting of credits	Up to \$3,000 to be paid back during a period of 10–20 years with an interest of 3–5%.
Technical advice	Assistance, supervision, training and continuous instruction during the building period by the construction manager, brick-layer, carpenter, social promoter, and an engineer/architect.
Self help construction	The new dwellings are built by the families through mutual aid with assistance of a construction manager and skilled labour. In the case of the housing improvements the families only get support with materials.
Cost per dwelling	For a new dwelling around \$2,300.
Subsidies	The families do not pay for the skilled labour, the technical advice and part of the infrastructure.
Total project cost	\$750,000
Financed by	SIDA
Success/strength	The project is current and no evaluation has been done.

Problems/weakness	The project is very complex with many components, and there was little experience of organization in the communities.
Documentation	The project description and quarterly reports

IOGT-NTO-Rörelsen (International Organization of Good Templars – National Temperance Movement)

Birger Jarlsgatan 25, S-111 45 Stockholm, Sweden
 Telephone (+46) 08-22 34 80, Telefax (+46) 08-723 18 29

In developing countries the movement mainly supports social projects focussing on alcohol information, education, water and health.

Project – Housing project in Sri Lanka

Aim	To achieve a general improvement of living standard. To provide dwellings for those who do not have one.
Target group	—
Local organization	—
Time period	—
Housing	Building 613 new dwellings.
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	No
Granting of credits	Yes
Technical advice	Is given by an engineer employed for supervising.
Others	Building 53 stoves.
Self help construction	60%
Cost per dwelling	On average \$240.
Subsidies	No
Total project cost	—
Financed by	—
Success/strength	—
Problems/weakness	—
Documentation	Yes

Lutherhjälpen (Church of Sweden Aid)

P.O Box 297, S-751 05 Uppsala, Sweden

Telephone (+46) 018-16 95 00, Telefax (+46) 018-14 63 72

Church of Sweden Aid is the Swedish state church's body for international development aid, emergency relief and assistance to refugees in developing countries. The around 400 projects funded each year are carried out in cooperation with the Lutheran World Foundation and the World Council of Churches. Stoves are included in several of the projects.

Project – Slum upgrading in Bogota, Colombia

The organization supports the work of a small local church to improve housing in a slum area. The housing component is part of a programme which includes health care and management of day care centres. The residents are also supported to form pressure groups to influence authorities, etc.

Aim	Help at least 400 families in the slum to get their own dwelling/improve their dwelling.
Target group	At least 400 families who have their own house or plot.
Local organization	Sister church.
Time period	The project is a continuation of Phase I started in 1981.
Housing	Building 75 new dwellings (Phase II) partly through self help, partly prefabricated, and reconstruction and extension of existing dwellings.
Building materials	—
Infrastructure	Yes
Granting of credits	The families get loans to buy the prefabricated house or building materials. The loan is cancelled after 36 months of repayment of the instalments.
Technical advice	Is given on design and construction of the dwelling.
Self help construction	25 dwellings are built through self help.
Cost per dwelling	\$1,050 (Phase II).
Subsidies	Materials for the foundation and foundation walls are received free. Financial support is given to the poorest families for the building and improvements of the dwellings.
Total project cost	\$127,000
Financed by	Church of Swedish Aid, Norwegian Church Aid, Brot für die Welt (Germany) and Danchurchaid.
Success/strength	Family built houses are especially successful. The houses are of better quality compared to the prefabricated, and the work unites the family. Repayment of the loan has worked.
Problems/weakness	—
Documentation	Reports and photos.

Other comments In the future the Church will give increased priority to self help housing because of the advantages mentioned above.

Project – Legalization and organization of housing in two slum areas in Calcutta, India

Dwellings had previously been built in a new area for families living in the slum. As a result of bureaucratic and political difficulties the houses were empty for a long period before it could be decided which families should get a house. The housing area was far from the work places. It was therefore decided to try a new model in already inhabited living areas.

Aim	To legalize housing, to improve living conditions through better housing and infrastructure like water, roads and meetings places, and to organize and train the inhabitants in the two living areas.
Target group	Inhabitants in two slum areas around Calcutta.
Local organization	—
Time period	1985 – 1990 but the project is still in its final phase.
Housing	Building 387 new houses.
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	Improvement of sanitation and drainage and installation of drinking water.
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	Was given on the planning of the dwellings and the living area.
Self help construction	The families do everything themselves.
Cost per dwelling	—
Subsidies	No
Total project cost	1989: \$285,000; 1990: \$173,000
Financed by	Church of Swedish Aid in cooperation with several sister organizations through the Lutheran World Foundation.
Success/strength	The inhabitants are by now capable of taking over all the activities.
Problems/weakness	Legal problems and bureaucratic difficulties to transfer land to the target families.
Documentation	Yes

Norsk Folkehjelp (Norwegian People's Aid)

P.O. Box 8844 Youngstorget, N-0028 Oslo 1, Norway
 Telephone (+47) 02-33 15 90, Telefax (+47) 02-33 33 53

Norwegian People's Aid is the humanitarian organization of the Norwegian Labour Movement. Through local unions, women groups and other local organizations and associations support is given to emergency relief, refugees and development projects.

Project – Support to housing improvements in Lebanon (Beirut), Guatemala (Guatemala City), Nicaragua (Managua), and Tanzania

Aim	To support self help, develop local organizations, mobilize the target groups.
Target group	Marginal groups.
Local organization	—
Time period	—
Housing	Building around 1,000 new dwellings and improvement of existing dwellings.
Building materials	—
Infrastructure	Water, electricity, etc.
Granting of credits	—
Technical advice	—
Self help construction	Installation of water, sanitation, electricity, etc.
Cost per dwelling	—
Subsidies	Between \$750 and 1,500
Total project cost	Around \$1,500,000 (in the form of materials).
Financed by	Norwegian People's Aid 20%, NORAD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 80%
Success/strength	The projects have resulted in the foundation of cooperatives and organizations raising of consciousness, etc.
Problems/weakness	Dependent on local human resources "intermediaries", deficient network.
Documentation	All projects are documented.

Den Norske Misjonsallianse (The Norwegian Missionary Alliance)

PO Box 6863, St. Olavs Pl., N-0130 Oslo 1, Norway
Telephone (+47) 02-20 06 46, Telefax (+47) 02-11 17 83

The organization gives technical and economic support to projects in developing countries: three countries in Asia and Bolivia. The alliance cooperates with national evangelical churches in the countries.

Project – Housing programme in La Paz and El Alto in Bolivia

The housing project forms part of a bigger programme which includes health, education, and employment projects.

Aim	To develop a revolving fund that gives credits to house building and town district progress.
Target group	The poor population in La Paz and El Alto.
Local organization	The municipality and local associations.
Time period	1990 – 2000
Housing	Building 82 dwellings in 1991. The participants define the number of dwellings to be built, type of improvement and building materials.
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	Water, sewage, electricity and protection against landslip.
Granting of credits	Are given with an interest of 15% to be paid back in eight years.
Technical advice	Is given by architect and lawyer.
Self help construction	The dwellings are almost completely built by the target group.
Cost per dwellings	\$3,000
Subsidies	In special cases.
Total project cost	\$360,000
Financed by	The Norwegian Missionary Alliance and NORAD.
Success/strength	Simple project and close link to local organizations.
Problems/weakness	Too early to say.
Documentation	Yes

Näkövammaisten Keskusliitto (Finnish Federation of the Visually Handicapped)

Mäkelänkatu 50, SF-00510 Helsinki, Finland
Telephone (+358) 0-39 60 41, Telefax (+358) 0-396 04 200

Project – Housing for handicapped workers in Ndola, Zambia

The house building is part of a project to improve the Kangonga Production Centre for the Handicapped in Ndola, Zambia.

Aim	To build small dwellings for the workers and their families and thus improve the living conditions and efficiency of the centre.
Target group	Handicapped workers at the centre and their families.
Local organization	Kangonga Production Centre for the Handicapped.
Project period	From 1986 (current).
Number of dwellings	Building six dwellings.
Building materials	—
Infrastructure	No
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	No
Others	Installation of one stove per house.
Self help building	—
Cost per dwelling	\$7,200
Subsidies	No
Total project cost	\$60,000
Financed by	FINNIDA 60% and the organization 40%.
Success/strength	—
Problems	Some currency problems and occasional lack of building materials.
Documentation	—

Project – Support to Elcin Rehabilitation Centre, Namibia

The project supports the work done by the Elcin Rehabilitation Centre for the visually handicapped and other disabled in Oniipa, Namibia.

Aim	According to the UN's World Programme of Action for disabled people: to promote effective measures of prevention of disability, rehabilitation and realization of the goal "full participation" of disabled people.
Target group	Staff at the centre.
Local organization	Elcin Rehabilitation Centre.
Time period	Start in 1988 (current).
Housing	Building six dwellings.
Building materials	—
Infrastructure	No
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	Is given through an architect and a building contractor.
Self help construction	—
Cost per dwelling	\$12,000
Subsidies	No
Total project cost	\$60,000
Financed by	FINNIDA, Finnchurhaid and the organization.
Strength	—
Problems	—
Documentation	An annual report to FINNIDA.

Pingstmissionens U-landshjälp (PMU-Interlife)

Krossgatan 15, S-162 26 Vällingby, Sweden

Telephone (+46) 08-739 04 65, Telefax (+46) 08-38 73 15

PMU coordinates the development work and emergency relief carried out by the Swedish Pentecostal Movement. PMU is involved in around 80 projects in 20 developing countries.

Project – Housing project in Esquel, Argentina

The project is a continuation of previous support and activities to improve the living conditions for the poorest in slum areas in the city of Esquel in the south of Argentina. In addition to housing the project includes building a park with a playground.

Aim	To improve the housing conditions for the poorest.
Target group	The poorest among the slum population, i.e. families with no or very limited possibilities to earn their living.
Local organization	Municipality of Esquel.
Time period	1990–1993
Housing	Building 40 small dwellings.
Building materials	—
Infrastructure	Water, etc.
Granting of credits	—
Technical advice	The municipality gives support in form of skilled labour and technical advice.
Self help construction	The families produce concrete blocks and participate as assistants.
Cost per dwelling	\$800
Subsidies	The municipality contribute with land and labour.
Total project cost	\$32,000
Financed by	The Swedish Pentecostal Movement through PMU.
Strength	The participation of the target group in the project.
Problems/weakness	Difficulties to get the contribution from the municipalities.
Documentation	The project application and basic data.

Pinsevernernas Ytre Misjon (The Pentecostal Foreign Mission)

P. O. Box 25, Ökern, N-0508 Oslo 5, Norway

Telephone (+47) 02-72 45 00, Telefax (+47) 02-72 20 01

The Norwegian Pentecostal Foreign Mission is the aid agency of the Pentecostal churches in Norway.

Project – Water and housing project in Formosa, Argentina

Aim	To improve the housing conditions of the Indian population, which includes providing clean drinking water.
Target group	The Mataco Indians.
Local organization	Mision Evangélica “Asamblea de Dios”.
Time period	November 1988 – February 1991.
Housing	Building 65 dwellings in Ing. Suarez.
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	All dwellings are connected to the water system.
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	The project manager, a builder, collaborated with local entrepreneurs.
Self help construction	The families burn bricks, etc. and build with the assistance of skilled masons.
Cost per dwelling	Around \$1,800 + the families’ contribution including burning bricks, building and digging of the ditches for the water pipes.
Subsidies	\$1,800
Total project cost	\$162,000
Financed by	NORAD 80% and the Pentecostal Foreign Mission 20%.
Success/strength	Participation of the target group in planning and carrying out the project.
Problems/weakness	No
Documentation	Yes
Other comments	The dwellings are equipped with ventilators between the corrugated iron sheet roof and the ceiling. The families decide the location of the house on the plot and the placement of windows while the rest follows a standard design. Cooking is done outside the dwelling.

Project – House building in Rama, Nicaragua

This emergency relief project is a result of hurricane Juana which demolished part of the Atlantic coast in Nicaragua. There are also other voluntary organizations building houses in the area after the hurricane.

Aim	To improve the living conditions for most of the families who live in a very precarious situation and to train them to build earthquake safe houses.
Target group	Peasants who have moved to the village.
Local organization	IDSAD (Institute of Social Development of God's Assembly).
Time period	Two years from August 1991.
Housing	Building 60 new dwellings.
Building materials	—
Infrastructure	Installation of latrines and sanitary services.
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	Supervision of the house building by a construction engineer.
Self help construction	Families build the dwellings with technical supervision.
Cost per dwelling	\$6,300
Subsidies	75% of the cost.
Total project cost	\$380,000
Financed by	NORAD 75% and the Pentecostal Foreign Mission 25%.
Success/strength	The project is planned by local authorities together with the local organization.
Problems	Rising prices and high inflation.

Red Barnet Danmark (Danish Save the Children)

Brogårdsvænget 4, DK-2820 Gentofte, Denmark

Telephone (+45) 31 68 08 88, Telefax (+45) 31 68 05 10

In accordance with the Declaration of Children's Rights by the United Nations, the organization supports Danish children as well as children in other countries. In developing countries projects are supported in the areas of housing, health, education, and income generation.

Project – Rehabilitation of housing in Bangladesh

This emergency relief project is a result of the disaster caused by the cyclone in 1991. The rehabilitation includes complete or partly reconstruction of dwellings.

Aim	—
Target group	—
Local organization	—
Time period	—
Housing	House building takes place on three levels: 1. Building of 1,400 new dwellings including stoves 2. 50% reconstruction of 1,500 dwellings 3. 10% reconstruction of 3,500 dwellings.
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	—
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	Building of the dwellings is supervised by experienced staff.
Others	Installation of stoves in the newly built dwellings.
Self help construction	The families build the dwelling themselves.
Cost per dwelling	The cost responding to the three levels mentioned above are: 1. \$366 2. \$85 3. \$28
Subsidies	—
Total project cost	\$831,500
Financed by	DANIDA
Successes/strength	—
Problems/weakness	—
Documentation	—

SADEL (Swedish Association for Development of Low-Cost Housing)

P.O. Box 118, S-221 00 Lund, Sweden

Telephone (+46) 046-10 92 44, Telefax (+46) 014-10 45 45

The association gives financial and technical support to the development and implementation of appropriate low cost housing in developing countries. SADEL has mainly supported self help construction projects in the rural areas of Tunisia. The members are architects and engineers at the Institute of Technology in Lund.

Aim	To evaluate the effects of a supporting programme of advice, to advise self help builders in the area of Siliana.
Target group	Self help builders in the national house building programme in the area of Siliana.
Local organization	Association pour le Développement et l'Animation Rurale (ASDEAR) and the local representative of the Ministry of Housing.
Time period	1985–1988
Housing	Building new dwellings and improving existing dwellings.
Building materials	Yes
Infrastructure	No
Granting of credits	Loans are given by the Tunisian State (see “Subsidies” below).
Technical advice	A group of advisers with experience of self help construction was formed.
Self help construction	Yes
Cost per dwelling	Around \$3,175
Subsidies	The subsidy which together with the loan constitutes 50% of the total building cost varied between families. A means test was applied to decide the relationship subsidy/loan.
Total project cost	\$119,000
Financed by	The Tunisian Government, SIDA and ICCO (a Dutch aid agency).
Success/strength	Experience from previous self help construction projects and contacts in the area. The project has shown that a supporting programme of advice is very useful.
Problems/weakness	The existing bureaucracy.
Documentation	Reports.

SOS-Børnebyerne, Danmark (SOS Children's Villages, Denmark)

Poul Ankers gade 22., DK-1271 Copenhagen, Denmark
 Telephone (+45) 33 13 02 33, Telefax (+45) 33 13 40 15

The SOS Children's Villages Denmark pays living costs and education for 10.000 orphans through sponsorship. The organisation also supports construction of dwellings and buildings. It is an independent member of SOS Kinderdorf International. The project described is one of the villages supported.

Project – Support of a children village in Mussoorie, India

Aim	To build a tailors' school and a children's village with all facilities.
Target group	Orphans and suffering children.
Local organization	The children's village in Mussoorie.
Time period	A couple of years.
Housing	Building a number of family houses. Each house is meant for 6–10 children with a resident "mother".
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	All facilities.
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	No
Self help construction	—
Cost per dwelling	\$75,600
Subsidies	100%
Total project cost	\$453,500
Financed by	Children's Villages, Denmark.
Success/strength	—
Problems/weakness	Not known.
Documentation	Yes

Stiftelsen Hoppets Stjärna (Star of Hope International)

S-890 54 Tresjö, Sweden

Telephone (+46) 0660-108 80, Telefax (+46) 0660-410 39

The organization supports children, mothers, and other suffering groups to find belief, hope and the capacity to improve their own living situation through self help.

Project – Housing project in Montes Claros, Minas Gerais, Brazil

Aims	To provide decent housing for homeless families in slum areas.
Target group	Families that have moved from the rural areas.
Local organization	Sociedade de Educativa Estrella de Esperanca.
Time period	1986–1991
Housing	Building 100 new dwellings and improving 50 dwellings.
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	No
Granting of credits	The basic idea of the project is that the families pay back to a revolving fund according to their ability.
Technical advice	Through the employment of a construction manager.
Self help construction	Each family is responsible for building their dwelling.
Cost per dwelling	\$800
Subsidies	See “Granting of credits”.
Total project cost	Around \$119,000
Financed by	SIDA 50% and the organization 50%.
Success/strength	The commitment among the participants/beneficiaries. The activating character of the project activities.
Problems/weakness	To meet the time plan.
Documentation	—

Project – Housing improvement project in Villatina, Medellin, Colombia

The support given by Star of Hope International formed part of a bigger project initiated by the state institution Crédito Territoriales de Colombia to improve the housing situation after the landslide in Villatina 1987.

Aim	To build dwellings after the natural disaster.
Target group	The families affected by the disaster.
Local organization	The beneficiaries of the project although formally the state institution Crédito Territoriales de Colombia.
Time period	October 1987 – March 1990.
Housing	Building 20 new dwellings.
Building materials	—
Infrastructure	Installation of electricity and sewage systems.
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	No
Self help construction	The families participated in the building process.
Cost per dwelling	\$3,175
Subsidies	Yes
Total project cost	\$63,500
Financed by	SIDA 50% and NORAD 50%.
Success/strength	That the project despite all was finished.
Problems/weakness	Very difficult to work in such an unstable region as around Medellin. The project took very long time to complete.
Documentation	Some, including a report to SIDA.

Stödföreningen för Partnership and Progress in The Gambia

c/o Sven Eketorp, Stora Benhamra, S-186 98 Brottbys, Sweden
Telephone (+46) 0762-30 220

The association is an independent part of the organization The Future in Our Hands and works with the Gambian organization Partnership and Progress in The Gambia. The association mainly supports projects that in a short time can become self-supporting, such as small industries like the one described below.

Project – Production of bricks in The Gambia

The project includes the establishment of a local brickworks as a pilot project in Sotokoi, a small village in The Gambia.

Aim	To start a local brick-works that quickly could become self supporting.
Target group	The people in Sotokoi Village.
Local organization	Sotokoi Village and the project leader.
Time period	December 1989 – December 1990.
House building	The bricks produced are used for building stoves and kitchens.
Building materials	To get an appropriate material, many different clays were tested.
Infrastructure	—
Granting of credits	—
Technical advice	Was given through employment of a local manager.
Self help construction	The house for the brickworks was built by the future workers and the manager.
Cost per dwelling	—
Subsidies	—
Total project cost	\$11,000
Financed by	SIDA 80% and the organization 20%.
Success/strength	The cooperation within the working group and the competence of the project manager.
Problems/weakness	None.
Documentation	A final report.

Svenska Alliansmissionen (Swedish Alliance Mission)

P.O. Box 615, S-551 18 Jönköping, Sweden

Telephone (+46) 036-11 91 30, Telefax (+46) 036-11 58 22

The Swedish Alliance Mission supports different projects in developing countries, mainly in health care, education for children and adults, water and agriculture.

Project – Town-district development in Cairo, Egypt

The project includes literacy programmes, health care, income generating activities, provision of water and sewage systems, etc.

Aim	—
Target group	—
Local organization	—
Time period	—
Housing	Building 64 apartments.
Building materials	Yes
Infrastructure	Water and sewage.
Granting of credits	Loan with a period of payback of 10 years (\$317/year).
Technical advice	Is given to entrepreneur.
Others	Each apartment is equipped with an electric stove.
Self help construction	No
Cost per dwelling	\$3,175
Subsidies	No
Total project cost	—
Financed by	—
Success/strength	—
Problems/weakness	—
Documentation	—

Svenska Missionsförbundet (The Mission Covenant Church of Sweden)

P.O. Box 6302, S-113 81 Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone (+46) 08-15 18 30, Telefax (+46) 08-15 87 57

In cooperation with sister churches, the missionaries and volunteers of the Mission Covenant Church support projects in developing countries, of which two include housing improvements.

Project – Rebuilding of a village in Sumaco in the region of Amazonas in Ecuador

Many houses were destroyed by an earthquake in 1987. The project includes building of a completely new village including infrastructure like roads, electricity, schools.

Aim	To assure that dependency relations are not created, avoid paternalistic attitudes, and to promote the local autonomy.
Target group	Families affected by the earthquake in 1987.
Local organization	The sister church Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico.
Time period	3 – 4 years.
Housing	Building dwellings for 109 families.
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	Installation of electricity, water, etc.
Granting of credits	A minimal credit (around \$95) is given to buy land for cultivation.
Technical advice	Is given in form of consultation.
Self help construction	The dwellings are mainly built through the families' common efforts (self help construction and mutual aid).
Cost per dwelling	—
Subsidies	Economic support is given for the parts of the houses that must be bought.
Total project cost	\$130,000
Financed by	SIDA
Success/strength	The village inhabitants themselves are responsible for the future development in the village.
Problems/weakness	There is still need for advice and financing from outside.
Documentation	Mainly in Spanish.

Project – Building bedrooms and staff houses as part of an improvement package for the school system in Manyanga, Zaire

Aim	To improve schools for 35,000 pupils in around 100 schools in the south of Zaire.
Target group	Pupils, teachers and parents.
Local organization	—
Time period	Probably 10 years (start in 1984).
Housing	Building 60 dwellings including both new construction and reconstruction of existing dwellings.
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	Some electrification.
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	Is given on building techniques. Durability must be assured if subsidies are to be given.
Self help construction	Mainly.
Cost per dwelling	—
Subsidies	In form of materials like cement, windows, doors, beams.
Total project cost	Around \$1,590,000 over seven years.
Financed by	Mainly via SIDA.
Success/strength	The program is relatively comprehensive as it includes buildings, educational materials, seminars.
Problems/weakness	The main problem is the low salaries for the teachers which the project can do nothing about.
Documentation	Evaluations have been made.

U-Assist (SAS-personalens u-hjälpsförening)

c/o K.G Eriksson, SAS, S-161 87 Stockholm, Sweden

Telephone (+46) 08-797 16 06

This aid association of the SAS staff collects money through deduction from salaries to support aid projects in developing countries.

Project – Housing improvement project in Porto Alegre, Brazil

Aim	To help the poor.
Target group	Poor families in Porto Alegre.
Local organization	Sociedade Beneficiente Esperança.
Time period	Project will be finished during 1991.
Housing	Building of 100 new dwellings.
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	No
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	No
Self help construction	Is used for building the inner walls and furnishing.
Cost per dwelling	—
Subsidies	No
Total project cost	\$56,700
Financed by	U-Assist and SIDA.
Success/strength	Cheap project.
Problems/weakness	The authorities.
Documentation	Under preparation.

U-landsfonden af 1962

(The Developing Countries Foundation of 1962)

P.O. Box 1290, DK-8210 Århus V, Denmark

Telephone (+45) 86 15 99 62, Telefax (+45) 86 75 29 00

Through information activities the organization aims at increased understanding of the link between the developing countries and the industrialized countries. The projects supported are directed towards children and women, water, housing, education.

Project – Periyakulam Taluk Tamil Nadu, India

Housing improvements form part of an integrated village development programme to make people more self sufficient. In addition to housing the program includes activities within medical care, education and agriculture.

Aim	To improve housing conditions.
Target group	The poorest of the Untouchables (Harijans).
Local organization	RTU (Reaching The Unreached).
Time period	Applications are made regularly. 125 dwellings were built in a village in less than a year.
Housing	Building around 300 dwellings.
Building materials	—
Infrastructure	Water.
Granting of credits	—
Technical advice	RTU is responsible for the technical part of the work.
Self help construction	No, the beneficiaries are paid to participate in the construction to assure maintenance of the dwellings.
Cost per dwelling	On average around \$ 700
Subsidies	100% – the foundation has paid for all the dwellings.
Total project cost	Around \$202,000
Financed by	The Developing Countries Foundation of 1962 with some support from EEC and DANIDA.
Success/strength	The result of the project is very satisfying. Considerable improvements in economy, health/food and social status. Use of local labour and materials.
Problems/weakness	That DANIDA regards house building as social work not as development and therefore gives little support.
Documentation	Publications.

Project – Pottapanayur housing programme in Madurai, India

The housing program was taken up by RTU in 1990 for a group of 150 women headed households, members of the Rani Mangammal Women's Association.

Aim	To improve housing conditions for women with social problems.
Target group	Women from deprived sectors of the society in Madurai.
Local organization	RTU (Reaching The Unreached).
Time period	December 1990 – May 1991.
Housing	Building 150 new dwellings.
Building materials dev.	No
Infrastructure	No
Granting of credits	Around \$340 per dwelling.
Technical advice	RTU is responsible for the technical part of the work.
Self help construction	No
Cost per dwelling	Around \$785.
Subsidies	Around \$420 per dwelling.
Total project cost	Around \$118,000.
Financed by	Government, other donors, the beneficiaries and the Foundation. The Foundation transferred around \$33,200 in total, of which around \$8,100 was transferred to other housing projects.
Success/strength	The project is efficiently and well done. The results can not yet be evaluated but are expected to be as positive as is normal.
Problems/weakness	Operational problems.
Documentation	Reports.

Ungdomsakjonen KFUK-KFUM (Norwegian Youth Action – YMCA/YWCA)

Pilestredet 38, N-0166 Oslo 1, Norway
Telephone (+47) 02-11 56 90, Telefax (+47) 02-20 47 59

In developing countries Norwegian Youth Action mainly cooperates with YMCA/YWCA sister organizations in education projects, i.e. schools and vocational training. A few of the projects supported aim at improving the whole local environment in urban slums and rural villages.

Project – Upgrading of slum and rural villages in Bihar, Ranchi, India

The project forms part of an integrated program with emphasis on education. Except of housing the project includes support with drainage, drilling of wells, health clinics, etc. The project's basic principle is mobilization of the population which includes formation of local committees, women's groups, etc.

Aim	With an integrated approach improve the local environment in slum areas and rural villages and organize the residents.
Target group	Mainly children, young people and women in the project areas.
Local organization	Ranchi YMCA.
Time period	Current.
Housing	Improvement of 450 housing units and their surroundings.
Building materials	No development; materials provided by the local YMCA.
Infrastructure	Drainage, water, etc.
Granting of credits	—
Technical advice	Help with drainage, etc.
Self help construction	Labour provided by the local community target group.
Cost per dwelling	—
Subsidies	—
Total project cost	\$ 90,000
Financed by	Norwegian Youth Action.
Success/strength	The project is managed at local level with local initiatives.
Problems/weakness	—
Documentation	Reports.

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The association has supported several projects in Sicaya Village, Cochabamba Region, Bolivia, like building a school (see below), provision of drinking water, and improved preventive health care.

Project – Conversion of older classrooms to teachers' dwellings

The provision of teacher housing complements building a school for 250 pupils in 1988.

Aim	To provide housing for the teachers, to keep them in the village.
Target group	The teachers at the school.
Local organization	Sicaya Village.
Time period	1.5 years.
Housing	Conversion of classrooms to 15 dwellings.
Building materials	No
Infrastructure	—
Granting of credits	No
Technical advice	—
Self help construction	Some assistance is given by the target group.
Cost per dwelling	\$1,600
Subsidies	100%
Total project cost	\$23,000
Financed by	SIDA 80% and the organization 20%.
Success/strength	—
Problems/weakness	—
Documentation	Not yet.

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