



AHI ACTIVITIES

With this piece, AHI is starting a quarterly newsletter of what we're doing, thinking, and striving to achieve in making meaningful impact on affordable housing ecosystems, because we want to share the news and think you'll find it interesting and worthwhile.

In many ways, the incredible diversity of the work AHI is doing – currently we're active Abu Dhabi, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Mongolia, and Nigeria, all of which have significant affordable housing needs and vastly different types of need – makes it difficult to see the structural patterns. As a new friend of ours from the just concluded World Urban Forum put it – *“We're thinking about the same issues and problems all over the world, but always not sharing what we're learning.”* Carlos, we agree, and this newsletter is our way of starting.

But first, a request to you. Because the world is a huge and complex place, and housing is incredibly specific, it's often hard for us to know what you don't know and want to hear about. **So let us know what you think is important in global affordable housing, what you and your entities are doing, and what you want to hear about from us.** Let's engage in this conversation together.

Some of our work: Ulaanbaatar and Sub-Saharan Africa (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nigeria). AHI's work blends innovation activity, where the goal is a changed environment or outcome, with policy development research, where we're enabling others to make better decisions about how they want to change the policy environment. In Ulaanbaatar, the world's second-most-air-polluted city, the challenge is to improve informal ger housing rapidly, cost-effectively, and consensually. And in Sub-Saharan Africa, whose three chosen countries all have disrupted housing supply and demand value chains, the question is, What is country-specific and what is regionally consistent? Snapshots of the work-in-progress are provided on the attached summaries.

Developing and sharing ideas. Spring brings conferences on housing and urbanization, and we've been active in attending them: AHI GCC Managing Director Maysa Sabah and Associate Adnan Ghosheh spoke at several in the Gulf region, and just two weeks ago, AHI Global Associate Anya Brickman Raredon presented on AHI's work in Haiti during UN-Habitat's 7th World Urban Forum in Medellin. **We'll also be participating in several conferences in the coming months:**

- ***Design for Urban Disaster*** at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, 5-7 May, Cambridge, MA
- ***Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Sustainable Reconstruction***, University of Massachusetts Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities After Disasters, 8-9 May, Boston
- ***6th Global Housing Finance Summit***, World Bank, 28-29 May, Washington, DC
- ***2014 Annual Interaction Forum***, 10-13 June, Washington DC

All of us at AHI are passionate about these issues, and look forward to leading these conversations that cause change, and learning from the affordable housing and urban development community. Thanks for reading, let us know what drives and challenges you, and please stay in touch!

David A. Smith, Founder and CEO

UN Habitat's 7th World Urban Forum

Location: Medellin, Colombia

AHI Global Associate Anya Brickman Raredon and Analyst Molly McGowan traveled to Medellin in April to participate in this year's World Urban Forum.

At the conference, Anya had the opportunity to participate in two different events. In the first, she spoke about AHI's housing ecosystem approach and a finance model for housing delivery in Haiti as a part of a panel organized and moderated by Cordaid's Inge Bouwmans and Marloe Dresens. Anya spoke alongside Margriet Nieuwenhuis (Director, Cordaid Urban Matters), Gerald Jean-Francois (Program Manager, Cordaid Urban Matters Haiti), and Raoul Pierre-Louis (CASEC of Turgeau, Haiti). In the second, Anya presented a poster during USAID's event on Haiti, where Chris Ward (USAID), Anna Konotchick (UC-Berkeley), Rose-May Guignard (CIAT), Odnell David (UCLBP), and Kate Crawford (University College London's Centre for Urban Sustainability and Resilience) were speaking on self-recovery and post-disaster reconstruction.

Anya Brickman Raredon speaking at WUF7



Affordable Housing Strategy Study Tour

Location: Anchorage, Alaska and Chicago, Illinois

Client: Municipality of Ulaanbaatar (MUB) via World Bank Clean Air Project

As part of its efforts to develop an affordable housing strategy for Ulaanbaatar, AHI conducted a Study Tour to Anchorage, Alaska and Chicago, Illinois for a 10-person delegation of Mongolian municipal and ministerial government officials. Along the way, participants met with nine different organizations and learned how affordable housing is defined, developed, financed, maintained, and accessed in the United States; they also considered what policies and programs may be adaptable to Ulaanbaatar. These American cities were chosen for their particular characteristics. Anchorage was selected because of its cold climate, expertise in energy efficient building technology, and diverse and low-income population. Chicago was selected because of its experience in urban redevelopment and the presence of strong governmental and quasi-governmental entities. Boston Red Sox caps were selected as a memento because, well, World Series.

Concluding Event for Study Tour



Sub-Saharan Africa: Stocktaking of the Housing Sector

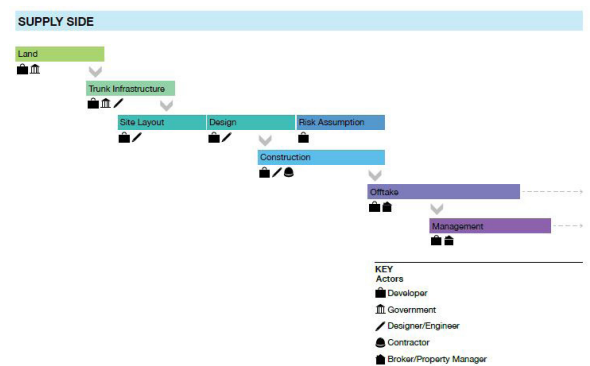
Location: Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Cameroon

Client: World Bank

In March, AHI contracted with the World Bank to conduct a stocktaking of the housing sector in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Focusing specifically on Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Cameroon, AHI will mine existing data and conduct fieldwork to enhance evidence-based knowledge of the housing sector and expand our collective understanding of the relative importance of the determinants of supply and demand for affordable housing in SSA. Ultimately, we will produce three country case reports and one regional report.

For all four reports, AHI will use its ecosystem approach to address the knowledge gap and provide a foundation for policy decisions, both at the country level and at a broader regional level. We will further investigate and build upon the World Bank's findings, which indicate that, although the African housing sector is highly heterogeneous, with substantial differences among countries' housing stock, supply, and available finance, there are also overarching trends that create impediments to a fully functional housing sector.

Diagram of the Supply Side Housing Value Chain



For questions and comments about our work contact: mmcgowan@affordablehousinginstitute.org