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Building issues

Collaborative Housing

A tool for social integration and
increased sustainability

by

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Housing Development & Management (HDM) – Lund University

Housing Development & Management has more than 30 years of experience regarding housing and urban development in developing countries and carries out capacity development, education and research from an international perspective. The focus area includes aspects of planning, design, construction, use, management, climate-sensitive design, resilience, user involvement and the connection between a home and its surroundings from neighbourhood to city level in the Global South. HDM also conducts research on housing and integration, energy use and climate-sensitive design in Sweden. The goal is to increase knowledge about how to conduct and improve participatory processes leading to good housing and sustainable development, especially for vulnerable groups.

Building Issues

The publication of Building Issues was initiated with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). A series of problem-oriented studies have been conducted by HDM, or by researchers engaged with HDM, and reports published in English and Spanish have been distributed to professionals in 130 countries. The purpose is to highlight current problems within the focus areas of HDM and it is hoped that these experiences will be useful for professionals and decision makers within each respective subject field.

Building Issues are meant to:

- Offer specific and applicable recommendations.
- Be easy to understand.
- Be scientifically correct.

Since 1989, 35 reports have been published and are accessible free in pdf format: <https://www.hdm.lth.se/publications/building-issues/>

This report

This report is based on the research project Sustainable living in community: a step towards integration and reduced climate impact conducted by the research team of Ivette Arroyo, Moohammed Wasim Yahia and Erik Johansson at HDM in the period January 2019 to June 2021. Norma Montesino from the School of Social Work, Lund University, contributed with the research on SällBo collaborative housing and in writing one journal paper. Laura Liuke, HDM, contributed in writing one journal paper. Ehsan Kilani, HDM, interviewed refugee women focusing on their housing trajectory when settling down in Sweden and their feedback about collaborative housing and plausible sharing practices. Johnny Åstrand, HDM, gave feedback to the team during the research process, coordinated one expert meeting and contributed to the editing of this report. The project was granted funding from the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning. The research team has written several scientific research articles and working papers to report project findings. This report intends to summarize the findings in a more popularized form and offer recommendations to different actors within the housing sector and civil society such as starter groups for new projects and professionals from the private and public sector. Many parts of the report deal with the Swedish conditions and examples and the recommendations are primarily aimed for the Swedish housing market. However, the terms used in this report are not specific to the Swedish context but aligned to European research on collaborative housing to make the report useful for international audiences. Hence, many recommendations can be adapted and applied to other contexts.

The authors hope that this report becomes a useful and practical tool for guiding the development of future sharing communities in Sweden and internationally and also contributes to fostering social sustainability aspects in future housing development that leaves no one behind.

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