



World Habitat Day - October 5

Inclusive, affordable, and adequate shelter is a fundamental human right and this is key to the achievement of the sustainable transformation of our cities and communities. According to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, individuals and families are entitled to adequate housing regardless of age, economic status, group or other affiliation or status. For housing to be categorised as adequate, it must be affordable, habitable, accessible, culturally appropriate, and safe. A home needs to be secure, allow its occupants to access basic services and infrastructure. The location should be such that residents can access public green and open spaces, employment opportunities, infrastructure like health-care services, schools, childcare centres, and other social facilities. However, around 1.8 billion people lack access to adequate housing and 100 million are homeless. This can be traced to several factors, one of which is rapid urbanization. Nearly 4.4 billion people live in the urban areas and this figure is expected to rise to about 6.7 billion in 2050. This exponential growth has led to the increase of slum dwellers, inadequate and overburdened infrastructure and services particularly in the developing countries. Based on these trends, it is estimated that by 2030, the number of people in inadequate housing could reach 3 billion. This is at variance with SDG 11 which aims for resilient, inclusive, safe, and diverse cities with basic services for all.

Why should we care about adequate housing for all?

- It is one of the targets of SDG 11 which is aimed at ensuring access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing.
- Millions of people particularly those that live in slums become exposed to socioeconomic and environmental hazards which could result in poor health.
- Young women and children are often the most vulnerable to inadequate housing conditions.
- Adequate housing helps reduce the spread of diseases and enables people to follow sanitary protocols.
- Accessibility of housing is essential for people living with disabilities, older persons or people with health related challenges.
- Building better homes ensures that neighborhoods are vibrant and integrated with diverse housing solutions which meet the needs of everyone.
- Better housing for humanity will contribute to building the resilience of communities and cities to climate change.
- We are responsible for shaping the future of our cities and towns.

A call to action:

- Modulus Tech - A digital solution that supports sustainable housing: [Learn more](#)
- UNOPS effort to construct 6500 affordable homes in Ghana: [Learn more](#)
- How to build a Sustainable House: [Watch here](#)
- Affordable housing for people with disabilities: [Learn more](#)