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ROOF OVER OUR HEADS

ROUNDTABLE MEETING REPORT

2nd November 2022



ROOF OVER OUR HEADS

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02nd November' 2022

ROUNDTABLE MEETING MENA REGION

TIME: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EET

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Laila Iskandar
CID Consulting



Salah ElHaggar
EgyptGBC



Catriona Brady
WorldGBC



AYA TAREK
BENAA Foundation



Mohammed Anwar Shaheen
Heliopolis University

OUR HOSTS



Amira Ayoub
WorldGBC



Sheela Patel
SPARC

Roof Over Our Heads

ROOH is a campaign that envisions delivering resilient, low carbon and affordable homes and improving public infrastructure to urban residents, particularly those living and working in informality.

Catalyzing participatory forms of resilient designs, governance improvement and mobilizing finance for such participatory action where local communities participate, lead and innovate together with other actors forms the core principle of ROOH.

The aim is to Delivering ROOH will need an “unusual” coalition of partners. From slum dwellers to financiers, designers, architects, suppliers, cement and concrete industry, paint manufacturers, city mayors and others who want to make a difference to the lives of the one billion people living in informal settlements and many more in poor quality housing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kbJfj6vSwQ>

Join In Person:

Venue: Dar Office, Smart Village, Giza, Egypt.
Gathering will begin between 9:00 to 10:00 am EET.

Join Virtual Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86385735762?pwd=MUNqVIMwZEFTS000QXV0Zy9NWHVFdz09>
Meeting ID: 863 8573 5762 | Passcode: 203138



Contact :

Amira Ayoub aayoub@worldgbc.org
Nihar Johari niharsjohari@gmail.com
ROOH rooh@campaignforrooh.org



Our Hosts

The MENA Region Roundtable was a hybrid meeting setup on zoom and at the Dar Office where we had speakers and invited audience who gave their valuable insights to the Roof Over Our Heads (ROOH) campaign. The meeting was hosted by Amira Ayoub and Sheela Patel.

Amira Ayoub

WorldGBC

I would like to thank Dar for hosting us at their lovely project. This is a campaign in collaboration with the UN high level plan champions and SDI, it's all about creating a resilient, affordable and low carbon housing for people who are suffering from climate change and who are living in informal settlements.

Coincidentally, at this time of the year we always receive messages and calls from people who are in need. To be honest, I believe that this campaign is about kindness, because it's about creating a community for all of us to collaborate together and help people who are in real need.

I do believe that we can do a lot of amazing things together, especially in the MENA region which is one of the most vulnerable region against the climate change. The region is already nested by climate disasters and I do believe that the roof over our heads can help these communities to live a better quality of life. The specialty of this gathering is that we have stakeholders from all the chains of the building sector. So, this is our time to work together and think together to come up with ideas together to create a better for the people who needed our communities as well.



Sheela Patel

Global Ambassador Race to Resilience, Race to Zero

Thank you so much Amira and all of us in the secretariat are so grateful that you pulled this together in a very short time while we were traveling so thank you very much, so all of you who are present in Cairo and this wonderful place, And those of you who join us online - Welcome to the family of ROOH.

Roof over our heads, is a important explanation for those of us who've been housing activists and have struggled very hard to get governments to bring in policies that secure tenure, that improve the quality of people's habitats. You'll find that all the investment, all the policies that are being done, have somehow not reached more than five to 10 people in this world who live informally, and struggle intergenerationally to get a secure home for their children for their neighborhood.

What we found women saying is we somehow used to survive, building houses in the old times, but now with extreme weather, we are at loss of how to deal with the constant destruction of our homes. So, we suggested that they become the real transformational laboratories that examine what they can do best, but also interact with people like yourselves, who have a deep commitment to help communities find solutions. Our motto is to respect the reality that poor women, their families and their neighborhoods; design, construct and finance their own homes with material that they find they can access easily with people who do the construction, whom they can afford.

Roof over our heads is an attempt to bring the amazing survival capacities of poor women, their families and their neighborhoods with those of us who have amazing skill sets knowledge, technology, financial models that we now need to tweak to make this accessible to these people in large numbers, because we've all been able to do some amazing things in small numbers.



Excerpts from Speakers

LAILA ISKANDAR

CID Consulting

I will approach this discussion from the perspective of the relationship between informal jobs and informal housing. We have seen how much money the poor have and are investing in housing. Although it may begin with shacks, it eventually leads to some very sturdy brick and cement housing, there is no land tenure because there is a constant argument with the government about how they are squatters and that they have taken land that is not theirs illegally.

The poor are aware that they have less knowledge of spatial planning but still want to be heard about how their neighborhood is to be planned. They want to participate in discussions about how their areas will evolve. After that, they should be treated equally and appreciated for their expertise.

The poor pay for the housing stock in emerging markets. They don't go to banks, mortgage loan companies. That alone indicates that they are spending a lot of money despite having very little property. In order to determine what they can accomplish and how we might work with them, we must bring these two storylines back into focus.

DR SALAH ELHAGGAR

President of Egypt Green Building Council

In my opinion, we need to switch back to a bottom-up system because it will be significantly less expensive than a top-down one. Second, it is more feasible and sustainable to identify the fundamental community's basic needs before attempting to construct not only housing but also employment prospects for the local population.

This will enable this community to contribute to the solution and feel a feeling of partnership and belonging. This will eventually solve the revenue problem and try to develop a solution using local resources.

I've always argued that utilising what is currently available is the best option rather than using concrete or other fancy construction materials. There are many examples not just in Asia, but all around the world of how to build this kind of home using local resources and how to engage the local population in the design process.

CATRIONA BRADY

WorldGBC

According to the UNFCCC, we are facing difficulties in the region due to the rains, high temperatures, and dry soil. The MENA region is one of the most affected by climate change. Furthermore, as is now the case, it is anticipated that the effects of climate change will make these resources even more vulnerable to stress and disasters.

In the MENA region alone, climate disasters have killed more than 2600 people year since 2000, affected 7 million people and resulted in \$2 billion in direct material damage, according to an IMF figure. Additionally, these climate catastrophes are causing a 1-2% reduction in annual economic growth. We know that international cooperation is crucial for us to produce funds, generate funds for adaptation within the context of climate finance from the viewpoint of the world's green building titles.

Additionally, we expect to be able to assist global learning and knowledge exchange in order to elevate and scale up the work being done in local communities all over the world.

AYA TAREK

Benet Foundation

Because it reminds us of the reasons we established the Benet Foundation, this campaign genuinely has a strong emotional resonance for us. It began as an initiative in 2016 in response to a catastrophic rain disaster that left many homes damaged and several people dead. We all got together to help these villages, but we soon understood that the true issue wasn't a one-time calamity but rather climate change and the inability of the isolated, vulnerable populations to adapt to it. We are thrilled by the chance to jointly create knowledge that can improve people's lives.

MOHAMMED ANWAR

Heliopolis University

This might be a solution, but people are not receptive to this new style of reconstruction. Another problem is not owning a nice house, but rather being intelligent. Therefore, if we increase the variety of talents available to run this business, the economic perspective will be slightly greater.

Questions and Comments from Participants

Question

I want to understand how the private sector or we as a developer can help ?

Answer

There are always three areas where the private sector can help with—the Cocreation, and the knowledge transfer to the local communities. The capacity building of the local community where they can develop their own solutions and develop their skills in solutions and be participant in the implementation of the projects.

Question

In terms of financing either products which can help communities or knowledge – how do you make waste material available for use. Are there examples you have of these financial instruments ?

Answer

The reality is that the shelter is a fundamental need that people have. And they produce it with the resources they have, with the materials that they can have, and the knowledge and technology that they have and this is what we all collectively want to change.

Every 90% of financial instruments, seek to redo the whole house. and most studies have shown that the top five percentile of slum dwellers can afford to take the loans that are there for it, and repay it. But 95% are going to upgrade their homes incrementally with materials that they know of, and the resources that they can afford to borrow. and this is these are the two areas we want to tweak, we want to look at new technology, new materials that are affordable, and where the people who construct and design houses, get new potential possibilities of doing things differently.

COMMENTS

Salma Yousry

UN Habitat Egypt Office

I believe that this is the fundamental idea we should focus on. Although I find working in the MENA region to be quite intriguing, we also need to consider the various contexts.

Dr Nasser Ayoub

Helwan University

I believe that in order to define standards for individuals who wish to build affordable housing, we should concentrate on building and design. They have a house, money and the ability to continue doing this, I believe, that as engineers, we should focus on this rather than being too focused on finance.

Closing Statements

Sheela Patel

I am very inspired by the passion, commitment, and the deep interest that you have gathered here. And like you and I said that ROOH in Arabic means the soul. For poor women, their home is their security, and it is the basis of their existence.

And for me, our collective ability to work with them, to expand what they can do to give them, practical, pragmatic robust alternatives, which they can afford; and for all of us who have in the past, always been envisioning full fledged houses financed and designed like that to look at this very disruptive possibility that poor people are showing us, which is to incrementally improve and upgrade their homes which is what 85 to 90% people do.

30 to 50% of the world's population in urban areas lives in slums. then there's something wrong with the system that criminalizes their existence. And the reality of more and more people coming into an organized world requires us to transform. What is the goal of the state, what is the role of the community what is the role of professionals. And I think that this campaign allows us to go beyond our professional niches, to actually see whether we have the courage to sit with women and work with them.

We look forward to looking at how all the stuff that you have, we interactively explore this with what would work immediately for people versus what are the things that we have to build together to make them feel that they can utilize these things, whether it's money, designs, and we look at ways by which we take back that knowledge into institutional arrangements.

So I want to thank you all on the bottom of my heart. I hope to see many of you at the cop on the 14th We have a launch of a roof over our heads at the resilience center, we will all get an invitation to attend, either in person or on the net. And as our new members of this campaign we truly hope that you can come. So thank you very, very much. And I want to thank DAR for giving us the space to be there.

Annexure

Attendees list from the Roundtable Conference (95 Participants)

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Aly Mahmoud		Salma Yousry	UN Habitat
Amira Ayoub	WorldGBC	Sara	
Anastasia Brainich	Global Resilience Partnership	Sara Kawamura	WorldGBC
Ashraf Nessim	Ain Shams University	Wijdan Alsharif	PaGBC
Catriona Brady	WorldGBC	Sheela Patel	SPARC
David Howlett	Climate Champions	Nihar Johari	SPARC
Insaf Ben Othmane Hamrouni	TunisiaGBC	Smruti Jukur	SPARC
James Fenske	UN Habitat	Indu Agarwal	SPARC
Laila Iskander	Egyptian National Govt.	Vinodkumar Rao	SPARC
Laila Khodeir		Nandana L S	SPARC
Lubna Ahmed		Maria Lobo	SPARC
Maryam		Siddhi Mehta	SPARC
Menna Tawfik			
Mohamed A Salheen			
Nandan Tavkar			
Pierre Dammous	LebanonGBC		
Riad Bhar	Guide House		

What are your reactions, responses and possibilities for participation?

Tell us what, how and where...

You want to be actively involved? If so doing what and where?

You know others who can be brought in? If so connect them to us.

You have ideas and suggestions? Write or speak to us.

You want to be informed? Tell us what you need and what use will you make of it .

Can you link us to people who can support local research pilots for design construction assessment & measurement?

If you know of knowledge products, scientific breakthroughs, finance instruments or professionals who can join us or share their ideas please contact us.

Do you know others already working on these issues? Think tanks, universities, material labs we can connect to and explore what value they can bring to this work?

Are there mainstream finance people who can help us?

If you don't know what you want to do but want to explore, please communicate with us.



If you want to help make this difference join us!

Please contact us on:



rooh@campaignforrooh.org



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