



Toolkit - Resources for trainers

Good Practice - SDG Nr. 5

Affordable housing for single mother in need

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Goal number 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Social Goals

The programme supports single mothers in the Tokyo area. Single mothers are often confronted with precarious economic situations in Japan since it is hard for single mothers to re-enter work after giving birth. Moreover, landlords have the assumption that they are not financially stable enough to rent a housing, so they prefer to rent it to other clients.

The project aims to help single mothers to find a housing and also it helps to make a sustainable use of houses that are vacant but proprietaries are not able to sell it.

The prejudice against single mothers has a reverse impact on the situation of these families. In Japan 16 % of all children live below the poverty line (increasing to 55% among single-parent families). The situation is especially precarious in big cities

What need does it cover?

The project renovates abandoned or unoccupied houses and transforms them into affordable living spaces for single mothers. Single mothers and their children suffer stigma. Often it is not easy for them to find a housing due to the assumption of landlords and house-owners that they are economically not reliable.

The project is an initiative of an NGO in Tokyo, Japan. The project aims to give access to affordable home and living supports for single mothers.



It is working closely with property owners, real estate agents and the government to acquire empty private houses to renovate. This is even more important since the Japanese population continues to decline. Some 14% of Japanese homes are empty. Statistics say that this will be up to 30% in the future. Moreover, a lot of persons that own houses and properties are not able to sell because of a shortage of interested buyers. Besides, Japanese culture makes it difficult for women to work after giving birth. This makes it especially hard for single mothers and around 80% of divorces in Japan result in full custody for the mother and there is no system to enforce child support payments.

How was it founded?	<p>The project was founded by “Littleones NPO” by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Littleones intends to educate property owners and real estate agents to end up with prejudice towards single mothers. They negotiate with real estate agents and owners to provide good deals and a place to live for the single mothers</p>
How does it relate to SDGs	<p>The program relates to multiple SDG´s at the same time. It includes the SDG number 5 of establishing gender equality, but also the SDG number 11 that aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. But it also relates to SDG number 1 (no poverty) and number 17 of strengthening global partnership for sustainable development.</p>
Good practices	<p>Renovating unoccupied/abandoned houses in urban cities and turning them it into affordable housing.</p>

How to work on it

The programme offers a good practice that shows how to connect property owners, real estate agents, governments and people in need. Like this several SDG´s can be met. Young mothers are offered solutions for their problems and also abandoned houses are used in a sustainable manner.

