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Restructuration of Baraka Liberté 6 Dakar, Sénégal

Submitted By: Association Habitants et Travailleurs de Baraka Liberté 6 Dakar/Sénégal



Organization Profile

Organization Name: Association Habitants et Travailleurs de Baraka Liberté 6 Dakar/Sénégal

Organization Type: Civil society

Website:

Practice Details

Country(ies): Senegal

City(ies): Dakar

Start Year: 24

Ongoing: Yes

End Year: N/A

Main Adequate Housing Components:



Housing Thematic Areas:

Housing Rights & Social Inclusion

Housing in Crisis & Displacement Contexts

Relevant SDGs:



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Problem & Context

The community had just experienced a second forced eviction. The challenges are numerous: decent housing, health, education, training, drinking water, sanitation, employment—but land remains the greatest challenge.

Political shortcomings contributing to the problem include: lack of respect for the constitution and laws, land and real estate speculation, and exclusion of disadvantaged groups from residential or upscale areas.

Solution Developed

1. A decent home is a guaranteed right... for everyone across the national territory. The community occupied land referred to as state-owned, therefore belonging to the people, thus the emphasis is placed on the right to land and decent housing. The residents of Baraka are the beneficiaries.

2. The objectives are the establishment of basic services (health post, school, water fountains, community resource center, tree planting), infrastructure (drainage systems and piping, electrification, telephone connection), and improvement of housing through permanent construction.

3. The first major innovation is the creation of the Council of Elders, bringing together respected men and women, which led to the creation of the Association of Residents and Workers of Baraka Liberté 6, including men, women, and youth. The Community Resource Center plays a key role with qualified staff and available tools. The formation of Economic Interest Groups and collaboration with central and decentralized authorities.

Implementation

1. The neighborhood was discovered by the executive secretary of Enda, the late Bugnicourt, in the 1990s, where extreme poverty prevailed. A consultation identified priorities, first being health, drinking water, decent toilets with sanitation, and food—with land access as the main goal for securing decent housing. A neighborhood committee was established with Enda's support.

- This made it possible to achieve the short- and medium-term objectives, with Enda as the institutional, technical, and financial partner, and the committee managing neighborhood affairs and acting as the main liaison.
- Signed under President Diouf, maintained under Wade, and a presidential decree issued under Macky granting 2 hectares.

2. Enda worked on this process from 1990 to 2024, achieving all priorities in collaboration with the committee. Funding came from its traditional partners, particularly the You Foundation led by Mme Ovhen.

- The Baraka committee collects revenue from the infrastructure in place. The community contributes in-kind to public interest projects.
- Enda passed the torch to Hope 87 after Bugnicourt's death and emerging constraints.
- Hope continued the process with the You Foundation as financial partner.

3. Enda from 1990 to 2024 and Hope from 2024 to present.

4. Land made available by the state and its support.

- You Foundation: 10 million USD
- Casa Orascom: Implementations

Enablers & Obstacles

1. The scale of the NGO Enda, which led the project with the community.

- The organization and inclusive approach
- The ownership and commitment of the Baraka community
- High-level management of the project (President of the Republic) with involvement of local authorities (City of Dakar and Sicap Liberté Municipality)
- Research of municipal, administrative, cadastral, and land documents
- Contributions from professionals (surveyors, bailiffs, lawyers, and technicians)

2. Land speculation and disguised eviction attempts were major obstacles.

- Lack of political will
- Change in regime (new government)
- Lack of cooperation from municipal authorities with a hidden eviction agenda
- Corruption of some community members seeking a better future elsewhere (relocation)
- Length of the project

The Committee and partners have always implemented necessary measures at all levels to counter these maneuvers.

Results & Impact

1. An informal school became formal, a health post was transformed into a medical center, a Community Resource Center was converted into a vocational training center, an integrated development plan, and decent housing with all amenities based on a rare achievement: on-site relocation of residents. The experience was declared a pilot project of the "Zero Slum" Program

initiated by the President of the Republic for the production of 100,000 affordable homes and replication nationwide.

2. On-site relocation preserved livelihoods and allowed continuity in education up to university level

- Access to decent housing at low cost
- Maintenance of family and community ties, preserving the tradition of living together

3. By integrating the “New Baraka” into beautiful Dakar, the community becomes more empowered and benefits from all the opportunities the city offers. The Association, Economic Interest Groups (GIEs), and professional bodies are central pillars for boosting the economy, not to mention individual entrepreneurial initiatives. The environment has never been neglected—from the beginning of the project to today, it remains a key focus. A dedicated committee handles cleaning and maintenance. Remarkably, Baraka Liberté 6 can count on its sons and daughters who have grown, matured, and taken on major responsibilities.

Replication & Scale Up

Replication is supported by the State of Senegal through its “Zero Slum” Program, starting in Taiba Grand Dakar, a neighborhood in Dakar, and in Cap-Skring in the southern region (Ziguinchor).

It is also supported by the You Foundation and Hope in the West African subregion, notably in Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, and Burkina Faso.

Field study of the experience (2 hectares): vertical construction allowed the entire project to be contained, with a land reserve secured thanks to professional involvement.

Exchange of information and experiences: Baraka was the first winner of the Senegal National Prize for Social Housing Production, certified at the Dubai Awards for improving living conditions.

The State of Senegal presented its experience in 2022 at the World Urban Forum in Katowice, in a special session led by the Minister of Urbanism, Housing, and Public Hygiene.

Policy Uptake

This housing practice is a new or innovative practice that is not yet adequately or fully integrated into formal policy frameworks.

It has become clear that communities demonstrate their capacity and resilience when they are included. Thus, it is essential to integrate them throughout the entire process, trusting them.

It is necessary to highlight their achievements at all levels by disseminating their best practices (forums, seminars, universities, field visits).

Decision-makers must pay close attention and use their influence tools.

Lessons & Takeaways

How to house the new generation, manage the land reserve, and preserve achievements are challenges that require constant updates.

Unwavering commitment, perseverance, and clear political will are essential to realizing the right to land and decent housing.

Note

The original submission was received in French. An automated translation was prepared using Copilot to enable broader multilingual access.