

# Factsheet



Country: Ethiopia

Project: Low-cost Housing



## Cultural Heritage Ethiopia

### Challenges & opportunities

By conserving historically valuable buildings in ancient cities you can revive traditional crafts skills, develop tourism and generate additional income. As you create more attractive living and working conditions, you will slow the exodus from historic city centres.

Helping dwellers in collaboration with Governmental Authorities and private investors to preserve the historic sites and improve living conditions through an integrated rehabilitation and development process is the need of the day. The restoration of the fabric of the buildings purely as historic monuments would only turn the old sites into museums instead of saving them as a living, dynamic entity. Only a holistic approach, which embraces

*Addis Ababa, Kasanches Palazzine*

es living conditions, the technical and social infrastructure, a healthy environment, economic viability and the socio-cultural identity, can have a sustainable impact.

Innovative ideas and experiences on the preservation of historical cities, sites, buildings and the social fabric are required.

### GTZ Low cost Housing approach

GTZ/Low-cost Housing Project maintained a Historical Site as “training object” to demonstrate “best practices” in cultural heritage.

One of fifty “palazzines” (“small palaces”) built in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa and Harar between 1936 and 1941 to accommodate Italian civil servants living and working in Ethiopia was renovated.

A lack of maintenance and repair work has led to a considerable deterioration of these houses.

It was demonstrated how rehabilitation can be done in a cost-efficient manner.

The building has been restored in a way that the old structure and existing building materials were reused – as far as possible - in order to maintain the character and style.

The sanitation system was

restored preventing the contamination of soil and water achieving hygienic, healthy living and work conditions.

The natural stone pavement in the courtyard represents a new trade introduced in order to make full use of the natural stones Ethiopia has in abundance, being labour intensive & durable.



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Addis Ababa, Kasanches Palazzine Windows after renovation



Addis Ababa, Kasanches Palazzine Windows after renovation

The exemplary renovation led to an increase in value of the whole neighbourhood.

More than 70 workers, in particular also female workers have been employed and trained – on – the – job in order to make the approach sustainable, i.e. replicable.

Renovation work is a new trade in Ethiopia – not many experiences have yet been gained in this field.

The workers, foremen and construction site manager engaged in this renovation project have been thoroughly trained now being able to form their own small companies and start off renovation of other historical buildings in Addis Ababa and urban centres with historical sites.

Taking into consideration the magnitude of historical buildings in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa and Harar and their dilapidated structures, they have a lot of work and com-

missions ahead of them.

The renovated old building serves as a “Centre of Excellence in cost-efficient Construction” in Ethiopia.



Our service package includes:

- Detailed assessment of renovation works & costs
- Tailor-made designs
- Awareness creation on need for rehabilitation of crumbling historical sites (cultural heritage)
- Cost-efficient & environmentally friendly construction technologies
- Preservation of historical character as far as possible
- Recycling/reuse of old building materials if financially feasible and technically sound
- Training – on – the job on all levels
- Small & micro enterprise promotion
- Involving the neighborhood in the renovation process.
- Consultancy services regarding planning and financing, establishment, operation and maintenance of basic infrastructure services in informal settlements
- Mediation of divergent interests

in cities, informal neighborhoods, private investors and historic city centers

- Improving cooperation between public and private bodies
- Development and implementation of concepts for the careful rehabilitation of historic cities
- Documentation of historical site and renovation process .

It is an overall capacity building approach, demonstrating best practices in order to achieve a win-win combination!



Impressum



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