



**CARING,  
HOUSING,  
RECONNECTING.**



**habitat &  
humanisme**

# HABITAT ET HUMANISME BUILDING CONNECTIONS



For over 35 years, Habitat et Humanisme has been committed to housing, including and rebuilding social connections for people in need, to fight against exclusion and isolation.

With a firm focus on innovation, Habitat et Humanisme has developed socially oriented economic tools to achieve its goals.

## Habitat et Humanisme is committed to:

- ▶ ensuring that people with limited means, who are vulnerable due to their social situation, age, handicap or health, can access housing appropriate for their needs and financial resources.
- ▶ contributing to the development of inclusive cities, by ensuring that housing for the disadvantaged is located in socially-balanced neighbourhoods.
- ▶ offering personalised or group support to encourage rebuilding social connections and inclusion.

**Habitat et Humanisme's activities are organised into 3 branches:** affordable housing, nursing and care homes, and emergency and refugee shelters.

## A network operating at the heart of local needs

Habitat et Humanisme is present in more than 86 French departments as well as in Belgium and Luxembourg. The teams work in close partnership with local authorities and organisations to offer the best response to the specific needs of disadvantaged people in their area.

## Principles

In its work, Habitat et Humanisme recognises the dignity and equality of every individual, whatever his or her background, origins or circumstances.

Habitat et Humanisme promotes inclusive cities and communities where there is a place for everyone: with housing for all, a humane environment and a sharing economy.



## HOUSING ADAPTED TO ALL TYPES OF HARDSHIP

### Housing for the most vulnerable in society

Through its two non-profit and socially responsible property companies, Habitat et Humanisme provides housing for people in need. It also secures rental accommodation from private and public owners.

Habitat et Humanisme provides housing solutions suited to different types of hardship:

- ▶ **A stock of individual**, widely distributed, low-rent **housing units**.
- ▶ **Small community housing units** with shared areas and activities adapted to the residents.
- ▶ **Collective social housing** for people in extreme need.
- ▶ **Intergenerational housing** to accommodate the young, the elderly and families, in an inclusive and mutually supportive atmosphere, focusing especially on senior citizens.
- ▶ **Emergency shelters and refugee centres**.
- ▶ **Nursing and care homes for frail or dependent elderly people** with limited resources.

### Innovative housing for better inclusion

Through the innovative housing solutions it offers, Habitat et Humanisme is fighting against social isolation and the consequences of poverty.

To achieve this, the collective housing residences include common areas (multi-purpose rooms, gardens etc.) to encourage the residents to meet and take part in activities together.

Furthermore, **Habitat et Humanisme** is creating **community third-places**, open to all, where the vulnerable can forge social ties and, more generally, re-create a sense of community across the whole neighbourhood.



### FOSTERING *inclusive cities*

To encourage the development of inclusive cities, Habitat et Humanisme chooses to locate its housing in 'socially-balanced' neighbourhoods and, through the support it gives, to build connections between its tenants and local residents.

The aim is to contribute to a change in the social architecture and to transform relationships in the community. It is hoped that this, in turn, will alter perceptions about vulnerability and create true 'urban hospitality'.



## HELP AND SUPPORT TO BUILD CONNECTIONS AND FOSTER INCLUSION

At the heart of Habitat et Humanisme's work is the support it provides to the residents to foster social ties, social inclusion and independence.

### Support offered in social housing and reception centres

- ▶ Personal or group support is offered at a local level by volunteers and employees to all the different household profiles and in all types of housing.

This support consists of time given for listening and advice, practical administrative help and, of course, friendly gatherings.

Training sessions are organised on key topics such as employment, health, eco-friendly actions and digital technology, to help social inclusion.

Activities to facilitate access to culture, holidays etc. are also available to give everyone the opportunity to escape their daily routine, regain self-esteem and establish new connections.

- ▶ Habitat et Humanisme offers specific programmes for refugees in its reception facilities: language lessons, vocational training etc.

### Caring for the elderly

- ▶ In its facilities and residences for the elderly, Habitat et Humanisme has established an attentive 'care-taking', life-long approach for the residents and their loved ones.



### Core values FOR SUPPORT

Establishing relationships with those being helped based on active listening, mutual respect and trust.

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Valuing each individual's worth and respecting confidentiality.

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Accepting the challenges of working with vulnerable people.

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Recognising each person as an active member of society.



## RECONCILING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WORLDS

From its beginnings, Habitat et Humanisme has held innovation and social entrepreneurship at the heart of its activities. Habitat et Humanisme is one of the pioneers of socially responsible finance and solidarity leases in France.

- ▶ **Habitat et Humanisme has two socially responsible property companies:** la Foncière d'Habitat et Humanisme and EHD (Entreprendre pour Humaniser la Dépendance). Both are accredited as 'socially responsible companies of benefit to society' and issue shares to investors who care about the social impact of their investment.
- ▶ **Habitat et Humanisme has also developed a range of socially responsible investment products** with banking and financial partners: savings accounts, socially responsible payment cards, mutual funds, life insurance. Savers agree to share a portion of their annual interest income with the Organisation.
- ▶ **Through "the Solidarity Owners" programme,** Habitat et Humanisme secures accommodation from public and private property owners to house people in need. This housing is mostly managed by the Organisation's **10 socially responsible letting agencies.**
- ▶ **Habitat et Humanisme works closely with the business community** and its actions are supported by many companies and foundations, either financially, in kind, or in the form of skills-based sponsorship.

Habitat et Humanisme's solidarity-based savings products have been awarded the Finansol label, guaranteeing transparency, ethics and social responsibility in the use and management of the savings.



[www.finansol.org](http://www.finansol.org)



*We are at a point in history where,  
because we want to create a different world, it is possible.  
The time has come not only to dream about it, but to build it.*

BERNARD DEVERT





## THE HABITAT ET HUMANISME ORGANISATION

To achieve its goals, Habitat et Humanisme's activities are organised into 3 branches: Affordable housing, nursing and care homes, emergency and refugee shelters.

The Habitat et Humanisme Organisation is composed of a Federation, with public benefit accreditation, bringing together:

- **58** associations in **86** French départements
- **1** association in Belgium and **1** in Luxembourg
- **2** real estate companies
- **10** socially responsible letting agencies
- the *Accession Solidaire* association which supports access to home ownership

The Organisation has also set up the *Habitat et Humanisme-Institut de France Foundation* which conducts research programmes and funds innovative housing projects

