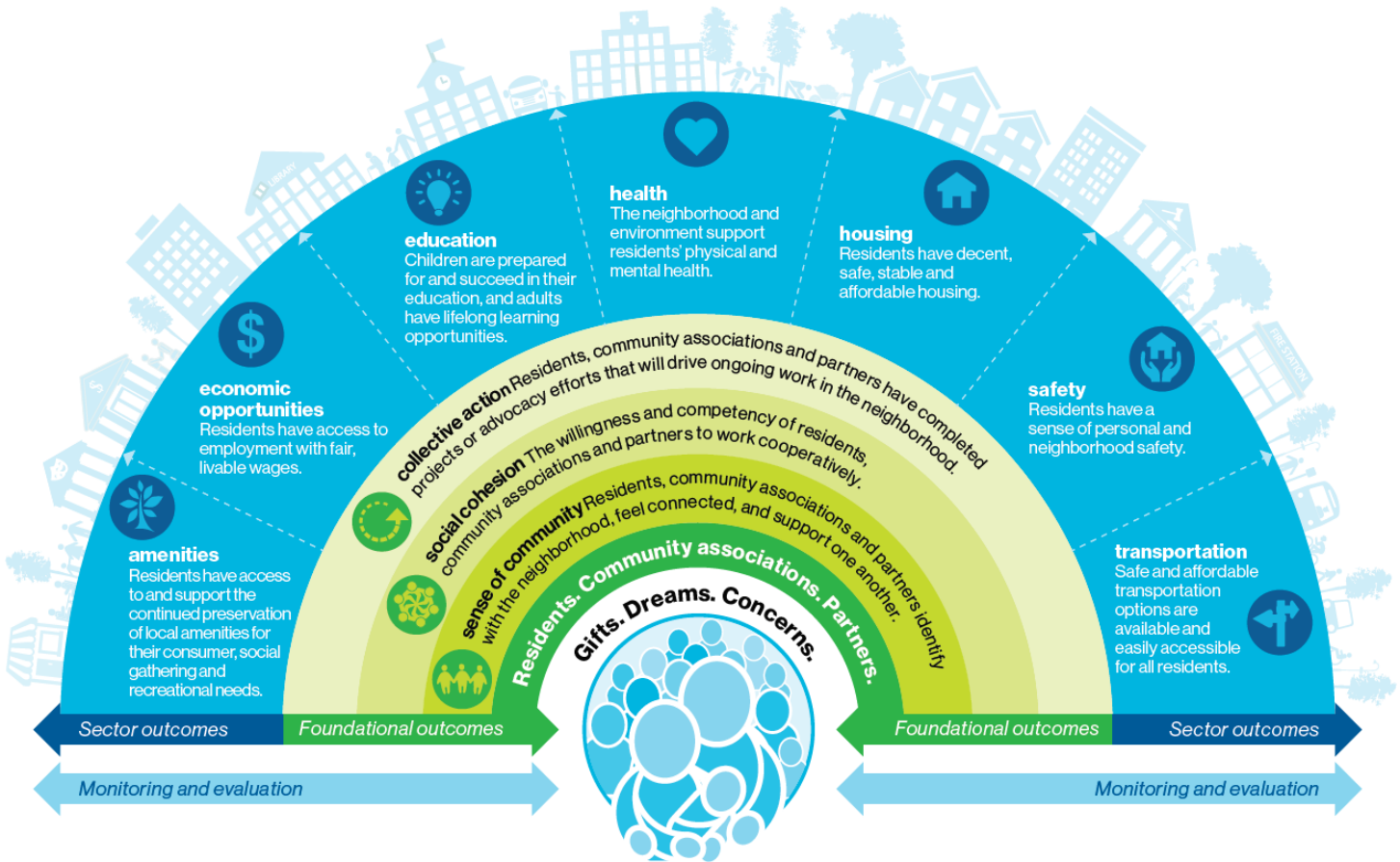


Ultimate outcome: Improved quality of life

Quality of life is the sense of well-being and happiness experienced by individuals, groups and communities.



Neighborhood Revitalization and the Quality of Life Framework

The ultimate goal of neighborhood revitalization is improved quality of life in a focus neighborhood. Over the last six years, Habitat affiliates have produced extensive insights for how this goal can be achieved. The quality of life framework is a compilation of this understanding and maps how multiple elements work together to achieve improved quality of life. It is being integrated into neighborhood revitalization as a tool to help Habitat affiliates and coalition members better understand how change happens in a neighborhood and where they are in this process.

Reading the Map

Habitat has learned that the greatest change happens in a neighborhood when people work together—residents, community associations, and partners. It starts first by understanding everyone's gifts, dreams, and concerns about the neighborhood (see Figure 1, center of map); then building a strong foundation around sense of community and social cohesion (green section), and; finally utilizing this base to collectively act and implement projects that contribute to sector outcomes (movements from green to blue). Arrows at the bottom of the map represent an iterative process, guiding users to continue to build social capital (green) in a neighborhood throughout the revitalization process.

Benefits for Habitat Affiliates Using the Quality of Life Framework

- Helps realize Habitat's mission and current strategic plan.
- Increases ability to serve more families and make greater impact through collaboration with partners.
- Expands opportunities to attract donors interested in other sector areas.
- Assists in understanding and articulating how and why change happens in a neighborhood, including the role and impact of housing.
- Leads to more sustainable results and helps address root causes in neighborhoods, due to strong focus on foundational outcomes.

Connection to Habitat's Vision and Mission

Vision—A world where everyone has a decent place to live. Mission—Seeking to put God's love into action Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Neighborhood revitalization's quality of life framework speaks directly to Habitat's vision and mission. By engaging residents and working in collaboration with partners, we are bringing people together. When focusing on housing alongside other sector outcomes, we are building homes, but making sure these homes are in neighborhoods that offer residents a decent place to live. Finally, at the center of the framework are resident aspirations, which guide our work, inspire actualization of dreams, and sustain and nurture hope in the varied communities in which we work.

Habitat Affiliates' Roles in the Framework

Depending on the capacity and willingness of the Habitat affiliate, as well as other neighborhood partners and residents, the affiliate may serve as a participant or convener of a neighborhood coalition. The quality of life framework assumes that some entity must serve as a convener, and in some cases it will be the Habitat affiliate. However, in most instances, affiliates best serve as a participant.

Participant

The vast majority of Habitat affiliates will play this role, in which the affiliate should:

- Join an existing coalition in a focus neighborhood.
- Advocate for the importance of connecting, organizing, and empowering residents, so that they lead the revitalization process.
- Take a humble listening posture to hear the aspirations of the neighborhood residents.
- Develop a comprehensive housing response with other housing partners, in line with the neighborhood aspirations.

Convener

A few Habitat affiliates may play this role, in which the affiliate should:

- Have a reputation as a fair and committed contributor to the neighborhood's well-being.
- Possess the knowledge and capacity to assemble and explore the gifts, dreams, and concerns of residents, community associations, and partners, and place these at the center of the work.
- Coalesce neighborhood assets, discover resident leaders, and direct conditions for a strong coalition.
- Have an exit plan to transition from convener to participant.

Habitat Affiliates' Contributions to Improved Quality of Life

- **Foundational Outcomes**—Build foundational outcomes by partnering with and working alongside residents, community associations, and partners in the neighborhood (green section of map). This entails seeking to understand different perspectives and aspirations; bringing people together and finding opportunities to engage residents; formulating a comprehensive plan with all stakeholders that tackles common goals; and then implementing and taking collective action on this plan. Habitat has found that without taking these steps, sustainable and systemic change in the neighborhood is difficult to achieve.
- **Housing Sector Outcomes**—Provide expertise around and implement solutions to enhance the availability of decent, safe, stable and affordable housing in the neighborhood. This will directly support housing sector outcomes, which is one of seven sectors defined in the quality of life framework (blue section). Through collaboration with residents and other organizations, Habitat affiliates can also contribute to ensuring there is an appropriate mix of housing options available to residents in the focus neighborhood.
- **Other Sector Outcomes**—Several studies point to the extent to which housing solutions contribute to improved safety, health, education, and economic well-being. Habitat affiliates should acquaint themselves with this knowledge and consider studying the effect their work has beyond direct housing outcomes.

Want to learn more?

Sign up to receive neighborhood revitalization's **the bulletin**, where additional communications will be coming soon!

<http://v.ht/bulletin>

