

Ivette Arroyo

Organized Self-help Housing: Evaluation of the Process and Potential for Climate Change Adaptation

In the first part of my PhD I have studied organized self-help housing from 3 different perspectives: a) the international practice, b) institutional approaches; and c) the organized self-help housing process. First, for the international practice, I have implemented an international survey of the state on the arts of OSHH to identify organizations and different types of OSHH projects implemented by NGOs and CBOs in developing countries since year 2000. The main technique was a questionnaire that was distributed to housing experts/practitioners through a snow ball technique starting with HDM alumni. Secondly, for the institutional approaches, I have studied the OSHH approaches of the NGOs SADEL in Sweden and FUPROVI in Costa Rica. The main method is two case studies and the techniques were literature review and semi-structured interviews. Thirdly, for the OSHH process, I have studied the case study Hogar de Nazareth, an OSHH project implemented by an NGO in Guayaquil, Ecuador. The main techniques were a quantitative survey to 100 households, semi-structured interviews and a focus group.

For the second part of my PhD I will focus on how slum dwellers have implemented on-site slum upgrading with an OSHH approach and how this experience helped them to improve their capabilities. Slum upgrading with such an approach enhances the capabilities of the poor, removes unfreedoms to access adequate housing whilst building more resilient communities. Doing slum upgrading with an OSHH approach will reduce the vulnerability of the built environment, enhance the capabilities of the community, their collective action and allow people to be better prepared – due to higher resilience – for facing the effects of natural disasters. I am also interested on studying organized self-help reconstruction after natural disasters and how enhanced capabilities and collective action are key aspects for better outputs.