Youth Innovation Project for community cohesion in Taipei's social housing: Partnership towards SDG 11





Sophia Roces

International Degree Program in Climate Change and Sustainable Development National Taiwan University

Advisor: Professor Sue-Ching Jou, NTU Dept. of Geography



- **11.1** Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- 11.3 Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries



Background

Source: rent.gov.taipei

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships, data, monitoring and accountability

The Youth Innovation Project (YIP; 青年創新回饋計畫) is an experimental program that allows young people between 20-46 years old to bypass the lottery system and live in social housing if they commit to regularly organizing interactive activities for residents of all ages.

Taipei City Government focuses on social rental housing as a solution

- Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je made an election promise to build 50,000 SH units in eight years
- Only 0.18% of the housing stock is designated as social housing (OUR-s, 2020)

Youth Innovation Project Bases in Taipei's Social Housing Jiankang Social Housing, Songshan District 松山區健康 35/507戶 Dongming Social Housing, Wanhua District 萬華區青年一期 19/273戶 文山區興隆 35/510戶 Xinglong Public Housing, Wenshan

Taiwan's housing justice issues constitute a significant barrier to achieving SDG 11

- High housing prices due to unregulated housing market
- Renters face poor living conditions, unfair prices, neglectful landlords, and discrimination
- Housing price to income ratio is 8.6

Social housing in Taiwan faces its own issues

- Poor management and lack of social cohesion tainted the public opinion of public housing
- Social housing stigma leads to the NIMBY (not-in-mybackyard) effect where real estate prices drop and residents protest the construction of new complexes in their area

Question

How does the Youth Innovation Project function as part of a public-private partnership to promote SDG 11 in Taiwan?

Increases youth access to affordable housing

Taiwanese youth are particularly affected by housing unaffordability. 35 households are reserved for YIP partners, and the chances for young people to enter into social housing are 15% through the YIP as opposed to 5% by the lottery system.

Establishes participatory management/ residential culture in social housing

When social housing management was outsourced to companies, conflicts ensued. Non-profit housing should implement participatory management and establish a culture of inclusion and empowerment (Geary, 1994). The YIP is uniquely positioned to engage in and facilitate participatory management.

De-stigmatizes and promotes social housing

NIMBY effect is due to demand, compensation, impact assessment, public transportation crowding, public safety, transparency, trust, fairness, and expectations for the site (Huang, 2019).

"[YIP] has become the main strategy for removing stigmatization and neighboring effects of social housing in Taipei City." (Hinh, 2021)

Promotes eco-living and environmental education in social housing

YIP partners hold a wide range of ecological activities for both residents and neighboring community members alike. They utilize the new rooftop garden spaces in social housing complexes to educate people of all ages on urban farming, composting, food safety, healthy eating, and environmentally friendly practices.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for SDGs

PPPs are the collaboration of various sectors towards a shared goal

Why use PPPs for SDGs?

- PPPs are a tool for urban governance to achieve SDGs in the context of globalization and financialization (Cheng et. al, 2021)
- When the public sector is overwhelmed, the responsibility of providing services can be split between public and private sector agencies (Ahmed and Ali, 2006)

PPP case study: Youth Innovation Project (YIP: 青年創新回饋計畫)



Future Potential and Challenges

Although the YIP's success is already evident after its first three years, it is not intended to be a replacement for greater systemic change such as policy and tax reform and increased control of the housing market. Neither is short-term social rental housing a panacea for Taipei's housing issue (吳柏澍, 2018). Rather, the YIP serves as a successful case study model for a mechanism that effectively ameliorates the issues of social cohesion within social housing communities, even under the same sociopolitical context.

References

黄如瀅(2019)。臺北市公共住宅鄰避效應之探討(碩士論文)。取自華藝線上圖書館系 統。(系統編號U0001-1906201915242200)doi:10.6342/NTU201900960 吳柏澍. (2018, December 7). 社會住宅是都市居住問題的「萬靈丹」嗎?探問公宅政策下對城市生活的願景. 眼底城事. https://eyesonplace.net/2018/12/07/9481/?doing_wp_cron=1606577869.0651640892028808593750 Ahmed, S. A., & Ali, S. M. (2006). People as partners: Facilitating people's participation in public—private partnerships for solid waste management. *Habitat International*, 30(4), 781–796. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2005.09.004 Chen, Y.-L. (2011). New Prospects for Social Rental Housing in Taiwan: The Role of Housing Affordability Crises and the Housing Movement. *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 11(3), 305–318. https://doi.org/10.1080/14616718.2011.599133 Cheng, Z., Wang, H., Xiong, W., Zhu, D., & Cheng, L. (2021). Public—private partnership as a driver of sustainable development: Toward a conceptual framework of sustainability-oriented PPP. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 23(1), 1043–1063. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-019-00576-1