

# HOW AFFORDABLE HOMES HELP INCREASE SECURITY AND FOSTER A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

REALL HAS BEEN WORKING IN KENYA TO BUILD A COMMERCIALLY VIABLE AFFORDABLE HOMES MOVEMENT SINCE 2005, PARTNERING WITH NACHU\*.



**PURITY WAS ABLE TO BUILD A LIFE FOR HER FAMILY AFTER PURCHASING A HOUSE ON A REALL AND NACHU FUNDED HOUSING PROJECT.**

## BEGINNINGS

Prior to the [Gitongu Starehe](#) project, Purity lived with her husband and two children in a rented two-room house in the town of Kitengela, south of Nairobi. Although she lived in a formal residential area, their neighbourhood was neither safe nor secure. They could not leave the house late at night without the risk of being mugged, and at one point their house was broken into with many of their belongings stolen. The area was also industrial, so air pollution was high.

## MEETING NACHU

As Purity's husband worked as a construction worker, the couple joined the Bultras Housing Cooperative, which is made up of other labourers in the profession. Through Bultras, they heard about NACHU's housing programme, and the opportunity it offered to purchase a home of their own at an affordable rate.

At first it sounded too good to be true, and Purity struggled to trust NACHU. But once Bultras were convincingly able

to verify that NACHU was truly an honest and reliable organisation, she decided to put her faith in them and together with her husband they started to save.

It took the couple three years to save the 20% deposit required to be eligible for a home, and they waited another year for the house to be constructed. Finally, they moved in and have now lived at Gitongu Starehe for five years.

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**"I AM VERY HAPPY. WE ARE LIVING AS A COMMUNITY."**

## THE IMPACT

When they first moved the area was not yet well developed, and they were one of the first families to arrive on the project. While Purity's husband still works in Kitengela, which means he has to travel four hours a day, Purity has improved her commute. She works in a printing business, and her journey is

now shorter and costs less. Their children are able to go to a school that sits within walking distance of the project.

Previously, Purity and her husband were paying rental prices of around \$75 USD a month. Now they pay around \$110 USD a month in mortgage repayments, but they are happy to pay a little extra to gain the security of owning their own home.

## THE PROJECT

The project of Gitongu Starehe has given Purity a strong community. Unlike before, she now knows her neighbours well. Everyone is friendly and they all help one another out.

Purity has now put a fence around her plot and has grown shrubs and trees around the house, giving her extra security. For Purity, the biggest change has been that her family can now reside in a bigger house. Before, it had been a squeeze to fit them all in, but now the environment is better and they have more space.

\*The National Union for Housing Cooperatives in Kenya