



**Symposium Title: The Star Homes project**

**Subtitle:** healthy homes for hot humid zones in rural Africa

**Date:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September

**Location:** Sarova Whitesands Hotel, Mombasa - [OTN 2025 – Oxford Tropical Network \(OTN\) Conference 2025](#).

**Overview:**

The Star Homes project is based on a randomised controlled trial to estimate the health benefits of housing improvements on child health in rural Mtwara, one of the more underdeveloped regions of Tanzania, with a high incidence of malaria, respiratory tract infections, and diarrhoea. Star Homes combine a series of design features to improve health. The trial compares disease rates in children living in Star Homes with rates in children in traditional homes. A [paper](#) showing that indoor mosquito abundance in Star Homes compared to traditional homes has been reduced by half, was published in April 2025. Final clinical results will be announced at the symposium. To learn more about Star Homes, check out <https://www.starhomes.wiki/>.

**Agenda and Speakers:**

8:30 **Welcome and introduction** Lorenz von Seidlein

9:00 **Designing a Star Home: Passive cooling and mosquito proofing**

Speaker: Jakob Knudsen (Royal Danish Academy | Architecture, Design, Conservation)

9:30 **Social consequences of a large housing intervention: the acceptability of Star Homes in rural Tanzania.**

Speakers: Judith Meta/ Bipin Adhikari (Mahidol Oxford Research Unit)

10:00 **The entomological impact of Star Homes**

Speaker: Arnold Mmbando (Ifakara Health Institute)

10:30 **The clinical impact of Star Homes**

Speaker: Salum Mshamu (Mahidol Oxford Research Unit)

11:00 **Plenary Discussion**

- How should affordable housing in rural Tanzania look like in 25 years 2050?

- What can we do to improve affordable housing in rural Tanzania over the coming 25 years?

12:00 End of symposium