A Data Agenda for Africa

We believe market intelligence & data is fundamental market infrastructure for the housing finance sector.

A key constraint undermining private sector participation and good policy engagement in affordable housing finance is the availability of data and market intelligence to facilitate risk-taking and decision-making.

By providing market intelligence that makes the case for investment in underserved markets, we can support a better policy environment and increased private sector activity in affordable housing markets.

In this way, we catalyse scale interventions.

Our data mission:
To catalyse the provision and dissemination of this data and to support the development of a community of in-country housing and housing finance practitioners who promote the importance of accurate data and who actively engage with data to generate relevant insights.

Our data vision:
The development of a housing and housing finance data universe in Africa that provides regulators, policymakers, developers and housing financiers with accurate, relevant and current data.

Our objectives:
1. Collect, assess and curate available data (public, private and deal-specific) relevant to increased investment in affordable housing across Africa.

2. Identify data gaps that inhibit market activity and close key data gaps by:
   • Encouraging data owners to make existing data available or improve quality/coverage of data they collect
   • Commissioning partners to gather additional data (primary data)

3. Integrate, optimise and expand our set of knowledge products & data tools to produce a set of key data outputs that are widely used

4. Build the capacity of partner institutions to analyse data and engage with data-driven outputs

5. Promote the importance of accessible, credible data as a catalyst in the affordable housing market

The following organisations are committed to CAHF’s Data Agenda for Africa. Join us today to form a regional movement in support of increased investment in affordable housing in Africa!

For more information, contact Alison Tshangana on Alison@housingfinanceafrica.org
Principles for credible, transparent data to build investment in the housing finance sector across Africa

We believe that the following principles must underpin the establishment of a strong data platform which can effectively serve as market infrastructure for the housing finance sector:

- **Drive replicability, efficiency and scale:** Data collection methodologies and data sources must be replicable (e.g. data can be traced back to its source).

- **Innovation:** The world of data is being fundamentally reshaped by new technologies. Therefore the housing finance sector must constantly identify and explore or pilot alternative, emerging technology-driven data collection methodologies such as web-scraping and image processing. In addition,

- **Emphasis on the local:** We must deliberately support local sourcing of data and the growth of local attention to and engagement with data in support of affordable.

- **Adherence to best practises:** We must define and champion best practise in its Data Agenda through sound data management practices, honesty and transparency regarding data limitations, risk management, and improved accessibility.

- **Collaboration:** Our objective is to see that available data is made accessible to users who would find it valuable – not necessarily to provide it directly itself. We will work with partners across the affordable housing sector to promote a practise of collaboration in achieving the Data Agenda. This will require clear respect for privacy and ongoing feedback and interaction with partners.

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**How we go about it**

- **2019 Housing Finance in Africa Yearbook**
  - Headline Indicators
  - Best practices for mortgage lending data
  - Country Data Audit Reports
    - In 2019/2020: Uganda, Mozambique, Tanzania, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Côte d’Ivoire, Morocco
    - Map of data partners and data gaps
    - Country-focused action / lobbying plan
  - Joint position paper on data requirements for Africa, drawing on country audits

**Data partnerships**
- Data library & portal
- Dashboards
- Targeted research & analytics