

The Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa (CAHF) Celebrates 10 Years of Dedication to Making Affordable Housing Markets Work in Africa

Tuesday, 26 March 2024, Johannesburg, South Africa – In anticipation of its 10th anniversary on the 14th of May 2024, the [Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa \(CAHF\)](#) is planning a year of celebrations, reflecting on the past to chart our course for the future, commemorating a decade of impact and a future for housing.

Over the past ten years, CAHF has become renowned for providing essential information to the marketplace – including data, market analytics, and research – empowering stakeholders in both the public and private sectors to make informed policy and investment decisions aimed at improving access to affordable housing. CAHF's focus lies in comprehending the intricacies of housing markets, encompassing both formal and informal practices and players, as well as the initiatives of households themselves, to pave the way for a brighter housing future. We firmly believe that the solutions to Africa's housing challenges are rooted in existing practices and in identifying suitable systems, processes, products, and services to reduce costs and enhance efficiencies for the benefit of all.

CAHF is widely recognised for its flagship programmes, which embody our vision of a robust, affordable housing finance system across the continent. The [Housing Finance in Africa Yearbook](#), currently in its 14th edition, offers a comprehensive overview of the housing market in each of Africa's 54 countries, shedding light on how local entities are facilitating access to housing and housing finance for households at the base of the income pyramid. Additionally, our [Housing Economic Value Chain](#) series delves into the role of housing in the economy and explores avenues for further stimulation. The [Citymark](#) programme analyses residential property markets in municipal and provincial areas across South Africa, utilizing deeds registry data to spotlight low-value properties and their performance. Serving as Secretariat to the [African Union of Housing Finance \(AUHF\)](#), CAHF is dedicated to expanding Africa's affordable housing sector by fostering dialogue, debate, and advocacy among private sector stakeholders. Furthermore, we have spearheaded professional development initiatives in collaboration with esteemed institutions such as the [University of Cape Town](#), the [Housing Finance Information Network \(Hofinet\)](#) at the [Wharton School](#), and the [International Housing Studies \(IHS\)](#) at [Erasmus University](#) in Rotterdam, with the online course "[Making Housing Markets Work in African Cities: Understanding the Role of Finance.](#)" Our [Open Access Initiative](#), though relatively nascent, consolidates insights from these endeavours into a framework that promotes private sector engagement in enhancing the information infrastructure to bolster investment in affordable housing.

We express our profound gratitude to our funders for their unwavering support in fulfilling our mission. From [FSDAfrica](#), our inaugural core funder, to the [French Development Agency \(AFD\)](#), our current primary supporter, and [FSDAfrica Investments](#), and [FSD Kenya](#), who champion the Open Access Initiative and our endeavours in Kenya, to [Oppenheimer Generations](#) and the [First Rand Empowerment Foundation \(FREF\)](#), who finance our work with the [Tenure Support Centre](#) in South Africa, we are immensely appreciative.

We also extend our thanks to the [World Bank](#) in Kenya, Rwanda, and Senegal, the [International Finance Corporation \(IFC\)](#) in Ghana and Senegal, [Access to Finance Rwanda](#), [GIZ](#) in Rwanda, [TUHF21](#), the [Government Technical Advice Centre \(GTAC\)](#), [FinMark Trust](#), the [National Housing Finance Corporation \(NHFC\)](#), the [MasterCard Foundation](#), the [Cities Alliance](#), [Isandla](#), the [City of Cape Town](#), the [government of the Western Cape](#), and the [South African Multifamily Residential Rental Association](#) in South Africa, and numerous other organizations that have supported our yearbook over the years (among them, the [IFC](#), [Shelter Afrique DB](#), [iBuild Global](#), [NMRC](#), [FSD Kenya](#), [CRRH](#), [FHFL](#), [AfDB](#), [BII](#), [HFH](#), [TUHF](#), [Neulandt](#), [Diversity](#), [Easy Housing](#), [ZB Financial Holdings](#), [TMRC](#), [FBC Building Society](#), [Affordable Housing Institute AHI](#), [NHFC](#), [FMBN](#), [Jobomax](#), and many more).

Our partnerships have been invaluable in enriching our work and advancing our mission. Notably, our collaboration with the AUHF has been central to our shared goal of fostering functional housing markets across Africa. The growth of our [Data Agenda](#) owes much to our partnerships with [71point4](#), [Reall](#), the [Kenya National Bureau of Statistics](#), and the Nigeria Mortgage Refinance Company. Similarly, our initiatives in Nigeria have been made possible through our partnership with NMRC and our collaboration with the [Africa International Housing Show](#). In South Africa, our partnership with the [South African Local Government Association \(SALGA\)](#) has been particularly fruitful, as has our collaboration with the Tenure Support Centre, in tandem with 71point4 and the [Cities Support Programme](#) at the South African National Treasury. As we expand the Open Access Initiative, we are grateful for the support and active involvement of partners such as FSDAi, FSD Kenya, [International Housing Solutions](#) in Kenya, Reall, and others with whom we have signed Data Sharing Agreements, as well as iBuild Global, with whom we are developing more efficient mechanisms for data collection to share developers' experiences in delivering affordable housing.

As CAHF embarks on a 12-month celebration campaign, reflecting on a decade of impact and contemplating the future of affordable housing in Africa, we invite all our partners, stakeholders, and friends to join us on this journey of reflection and foresight. In the upcoming months, we will spotlight various facets of our work, showcasing the evolution of our initiatives, the lessons learned, and the positive transformations witnessed in the housing market. We encourage all those who have been a part of our journey to share their experiences, insights, and milestones achieved during these remarkable 10 years, along with their aspirations for the next decade. Your stories contribute to the collective narrative of progress and success in affordable housing. Connect with us on social media using #CAHFis10 and #Adecadeofimpact to share your stories, memories, and reflections. Let us celebrate the collaborative spirit that has propelled a decade of positive change as we look forward to the next ten years in which we work together to make housing markets work in Africa.

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