

March 2020



Meeting your needs in challenging times — a message from the CEO of the AUHF



As of 19 March 2020, more than 600 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in 34 countries in Africa by the World Health Organisation. The region has seen a significant increase in confirmed cases recently and this calls for immediate action by all those working in Africa as called for by Dr Matshidiso Moeti, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa. For more information please click on the following link <https://www.afro.who.int/news/more-600-confirmed-cases-covid-19-africa>.

I would like to inform you of the precautionary measures we have taken as an organisation as well as our plans to deliver on AUHF commitments during these uncertain times.

- Travel: for the Secretariat, Board and Sub-Committees there will be no travel, neither international nor domestic, until we receive indications that it is safe to do so. We will continue to assess this decision based on guidance from public health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and local governments.
- Meetings: Any meetings required will be done using a webinar / video conference approach and will be set up by the secretariat as such.
- Secretariat: The secretariat remains functional, but for social distancing purposes, secretariat staff may elect to work remotely. They will however, as always, be contactable during office hours via e-mail or WhatsApp.
- Please inform the secretariat of any actions taken by your organisation in dealing with the epidemic so that we can share important information and update our systems accordingly.

Update on AUHF work:

- We submitted an article earlier this month on insights from the AUHF conference to Housing Finance International for publication.
- We have welcomed a new member, SOLUTI Finance East Africa, to the AUHF and have updated the website accordingly. We currently have 39 fully paid members.
- We are in the process of updating the current AUHF website – any inputs to this process are welcome.
- We are finalising member profiles in the standardised format and loading these onto the website. 11 profiles are still outstanding, and we will be in contact with these members for finalisation of their profiles.
- We are updating the AUHF strategy for presentation at the April Board meeting. This will include a revised action plan for the rest of the year. This is necessary given the travel restrictions and the fact that we are developing new approaches to achieve our objectives.
- We are consolidating a contact list of prospective new members to approach for membership.
- We are following up with members that are in arrears. There are currently 13 members in arrears.
- We have met with the Conference organisers to plan for the AUHF Conference in Kigali, Rwanda from 3-5 November titled "Investing in the SDGs: Finding a Market Opportunity in Affordable Housing" and are developing a conference agenda and prospective speakers list. Any input or suggestions will be welcome.
- We are reworking the dashboard on the AUHF website.

Urgent request for information assistance by the World Bank:

- **Simon Walley, Lead Financial Sector Specialist of the World Bank has requested the AUHF's assistance:**

- Please can members share any market initiatives being put in place in their jurisdictions relating to forbearance, government support programs for housing or mortgage payments, mortgage hardship funds, freezes on foreclosures/evictions, Central Bank support measures as they relate to mortgage markets or any other relevant programs by either governments or lenders.
- Please respond directly to the secretariat on this. He has indicated that a short response or a link to further information would be greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards ,



ANDREW CHIMPHONDAH
Chairman

For more information, please contact Vanessa Khosa Vanessa@housingfinanceafrica.org

For more information on the African Union for Housing Finance, visit www.auhf.co.za

