

## Investment & Innovation in Housing

There seems to be vast amounts of investment going into affordable housing development across the continent. This month alone, there have been reports of the World Bank investment in Nigeria, AFD's investments in Nigeria and South Africa. The European Investment Bank has also invested in South Africa's affordable housing market. Housing Finance in Kenya, has reported their growth in profits as a result of investment and product innovation. Building technologies are also gradually gaining momentum across the continent, with many building technology companies innovating in this space. All this illustrates progress in housing finance, particularly from an investment perspective. It is not only progress in the housing finance space that will shift the state of housing on the continent, however; policies and their implementation plays a crucial role. Where housing is concerned, housing is a major urban and economic issue.

Where progress on the one end may be better than no progress at all, there needs to be a common conversation across the whole economic and urban development spectrum in order to bring about a significant shift to the state of housing on the continent.

An opportunity exists for views from all sectors to be considered by policy makers. The [African Ministerial Conference for Housing and Urban Development \(AMCHUD\)](#) is a platform for governments to improve African cities and provides the opportunity for issues in the various sectors of development to be explored. It is a platform for the development of African Housing and Urban Development Policies. The AUHF secretariat has arranged for an opportunity for AUHF members' views, to be collated and form the basis of a paper to be presented at the AMCHUD meeting. We will be sending out the questionnaire soon and we hope to get as many responses as possible for this cause.

*FINANCING HOUSING in Africa is a monthly publication of the African Union for Housing Finance for its members. Please submit material for inclusion to Kecia Rust, at [kecia@housingfinanceafrica.org](mailto:kecia@housingfinanceafrica.org) or Lorraine Nzimande at [lorraine@housingfinanceafrica.org](mailto:lorraine@housingfinanceafrica.org).*

### AFRICAN UNION FOR HOUSING FINANCE

The AUHF is an association of thirty-nine mortgage banks, building societies, housing corporations and other entities involved in the mobilization of finances for the development of shelter and housing on the African continent. The AUHF is a non-governmental association and has its presence in some sixteen countries across the continent of Africa. See [www.auhf.co.za](http://www.auhf.co.za)



Group: African Union for Housing Finance



@AUHF\_Housing

The Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa has launched a Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/HousingFinanceAfrica](http://www.facebook.com/HousingFinanceAfrica)  
'Like' us for links to current debates in housing finance.

## In the news

This month in African housing & finance

### West African News

#### World Bank approves \$300m mortgage facility for Nigeria

The World Bank has approved a \$300 million International Development Assistance (IDA) credit facility for Nigeria. The credit is to support the establishment of a mortgage liquidity facility scheme to generate long term funds for borrowers in the middle and lower income categories. This will aid the provision of affordable mortgages. Source (3 Oct 2013): [Ventures Africa](#).

#### New Housing Scheme on the cards for Ghana

In an effort to reduce the housing deficit in Ghana, the government is making plans to establish a fund for the construction of affordable houses. This is a real estate fund known as the Viability Gap Scheme and will be targeted at affordable housing projects. The scheme is focused on making long term funds available to the housing finance sub-sector by increasing bond yields from the current duration of five years, to seven years in the short term. Government has invited members of the Ghana real Estate Developers Association (GREDA), to partner it in working out the modalities for the fund. Source (29 Oct 2013): [All Africa](#).

#### Affordable Housing partnership for Nigeria



Lafarge and AFD have partnered in microfinance in support of an affordable housing project in Nigeria. AFD has contributed 5 million Euros to the microfinance bank of Lafarge's Nigerian partner, the Lift above Poverty Organisation (LAPO). The project will help to enable families with low incomes to finance and oversee the construction, expansion and renovation of their houses. AFD has helped LAPO to offer low-income households in Nigeria, a financial solution for housing. Source (28 Oct 2013): [WorldCement.com](http://WorldCement.com).

### Southern African News

#### Nedbank and AFD to fund housing in South Africa

Nedbank has partnered with the French Development Agency to provide a borrower education programme and a R17 000 grant to boost home ownership. Participants of the borrower education programme will be given a certificate upon completion of the programme, to apply for a home loan with Nedbank. Successful applicants will qualify for a R17 000 grant from AFD. Source (11 Oct 2013): [IOL](http://IOL).

#### Standard Bank Group signs affordable housing agreement for South Africa

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is investing approximately US\$206 million in affordable and social housing in South Africa. This fund is to be managed by four local partners, one of which, is the Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd. The Standard Bank Group has signed an agreement with the EIB to avail up to US\$41 million for affordable, social and student housing developments in South Africa. The selected housing schemes are expected to be in place by 2017 with creating about 65 construction jobs. Source (30 Oct 2013): [4Traders](http://4Traders).

#### New Technology to ease housing blues in Zimbabwe

Eco Shelter has introduced its building technology in Zimbabwe's construction industry. This technology will provide a solution to the nation's housing backlog. The company uses the DEG Eco-shelter technology, which is a building system that offers a cost effective, easier and faster way to build a range of buildings: residential, commercial and industrial properties. This building technology can save up to 30% on the initial costs of construction as compared to conventional building materials and methods. Eco Shelter has successfully completed housing projects in Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa. Source (23 Oct 2013): [AllAfrica](http://AllAfrica).

#### 15 000 Homes underway for Angolans

The Angolan Urbanisation and Housing department has announced the near completion of 15 206 housing units in six

of its provinces. These houses are expected to be completed by the end of this year (2013). Source (10 Oct 2013): [AllAfrica](http://AllAfrica).

### East African News

#### Technology to spur demand of affordable housing in Kenya

A Pilot construction project has been launched in a Nairobi suburb, which uses extended polystyrene panel technology to build affordable housing. The project is being implemented through the National Housing Corporation, and should it be successful, it will be used as a blueprint that will be scaled up nationally with 2000 units to be constructed within the 2013/2014 financial year. Source (7 Oct 2013): [In2EastAfrica](http://In2EastAfrica).

## Member news

Updates & resources from AUHF members

#### Kenya's Housing Finance Company profits increase by 58%

Housing Finance Company has reported a 58% increase in pre-tax profits for the period ending on 30 September 2013. According to the company's managing director, Frank Ileri, the growth is as a result of growing customer numbers, real estate investment and product innovation. Source (29 Sept 2013): [Standard Digital](http://Standard Digital).

#### Vantage Holdings partners to provide low cost housing in Zimbabwe

Vantage Holdings, a microfinance institution in Zimbabwe, has partnered with a construction company for the provision of low cost housing in the country. The plan is to assist over 100 families in the Suburb of Budiriro, before spreading to other parts of the country. Source (12 Oct 2013): [ZBC News](http://ZBC News).

#### Zimbabwe rolls out US\$15 million Housing Project in Harare with CABS

The Harare City council has partnered with the Central African Building Society (CABS) to roll out a US\$15 million housing project, the biggest such venture in the country over the past 20 years. According to Harare City's director of housing and community services, Mr Justin Chivavaya, 3 102 houses are to be built under the Budiriro Housing Development Project. These houses are targeted at low income earners and first time home owners and will be sold for between US\$ 17 000 and US\$27 000 depending on the size and number of rooms. CABS will be issuing 10 year mortgages to qualifying beneficiaries. Source (16 Oct 2013): [AllAfrica](http://AllAfrica).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2013

**19- 20 Nov** [International Workshop Design and Trade Exhibition](#). V&A Waterfront- Cape Town, South Africa.

### 2014

**28 Feb** [The 2nd Hague Housing Conference](#). The Hague, Netherlands.

**Feb** African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD). N'Djamena, Chad.

**5-7 Apr** [World Urban Forum 7](#). Medellin Columbia.

**26 May - 26 Jun** Developing Social Housing Projects 2014. For details email. [jhs.study5@gmail.com](mailto:jhs.study5@gmail.com)

**16 – 18 Jun** City Development. Cape Town, South Africa. Contact Mavis Yong for details [mavisy@marcusevanski.com](mailto:mavisy@marcusevanski.com)

**3-7 Aug** [International Union of Architects World Congress](#). Durban, South Africa.

Visit <http://www.auhf.co.za/events/> for event details

## Members:

1. Please submit any current news on your organisation, for the Member News section. Please also feel free to submit any content you may find useful for the newsletter.
2. We will be sending out the AMCHUD questionnaire soon; your contribution will be highly appreciated & will go a long way in relaying your message to the African Housing & Urban Development Ministers

*Any submissions can be sent to Lorraine Nzimande on [Lorraine@housingfinanceafrica.org](mailto:Lorraine@housingfinanceafrica.org)*

## Recent tweets



**AUHF @AUHF\_Housing**  
Lafarge and AFD launch a partnership for an #affordable #housing project in #Nigeria [worldcement.com/news/regional-](http://worldcement.com/news/regional-)



**AUHF @AUHF\_Housing**  
R800billion needed to solve #Housing issues by 2020 in #SouthAfrica [enca.com/south-africa/r...](http://enca.com/south-africa/r...)



**AUHF@AUHF\_Housing**  
World Bank approves \$300m #Mortgage Facility for #Nigeria



**AUHF @AUHF\_Housing**  
#Habitat for Humanity's 2014 Shelter Report stresses #Housing #Microfinance [trust.org/item/201310070...](http://trust.org/item/201310070...)

