



## South Africa: Financial Sector Charter Workshop

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**Project Summary:** In December, 2003, as part of the banking sector's implementation of the landmark Financial Sector Charter, the Banking Association of South Africa convened an intensive three-day brainstorming product design workshop to identify new initiatives, and requested AHI to facilitate the sessions and document the resulting potential ideas.

### Operation facts

With the coming of full democracy in 1994, South Africa has entered a social and economic renaissance. After some unsuccessful direct housing interventions, the ANC-led government has instead opted for numerous sector-specific charters -- bilateral agreements between government and the relevant sector, in each of which the sector pledges itself to achieve social and economic goals. With the 2003 adoption of a Financial Sector Charter ([http://www.banking.org.za/Downloads/Charter\\_Final.pdf](http://www.banking.org.za/Downloads/Charter_Final.pdf)), the South African banking industry faced the necessity of designing and implementing initiatives to meet the charter's ambitious goals. The problem is exacerbated by the capacity imbalance between public and private sectors: South Africa's private financial sector is strongly developed and world-class, whereas its public regulatory and housing affordability capacity is nascent and inexperienced.

The Banking Council of South Africa therefore desired:

- A national gaps assessment of the South African housing environment
- Stakeholder symposium to discuss avenues and strategies for intervention
- Program design, in particular an immediately implementable plan

### AHI services provided

- Design of the three-day workshop encompasses roughly 40 participants from all sectors
- With local South African experts, development and population of a South African affordable housing ecosystem
- Assessment and review of national banking capacity and gaps, identification of needs
- With several others, facilitation of all workshop sessions; capturing and documentation of workshop ideas
- Preparation of full conference documentation of insights, consensus findings, potential initiatives, and new insights
- Systematic enumeration of 21 separate potential initiatives that could add value if advanced

### Outcomes

Participants identified over 20 interventions -- competitive, collaborative, partnering with government, or government-inaugurated -- that could significantly increase financial sector delivery of capital (up to about R20 billion) into affordable housing over the ensuing five years.