

Botswana's Self-Help Housing Agency (SHHA) — A Cautionary Tale in Site-and-Service Housing

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Botswana

Quality score: 43/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Botswana's national self-help housing scheme, running since 1973, allocates serviced plots for owner-built homes. Two evaluations (2007, 2018) of Gaborone plots found rising resale to middle-income buyers is displacing the low-income households the scheme was designed for.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	1/3
Sustainability / continuity	1/3
Innovation	1/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-12

[Self-Help Housing Agency \(SHHA\), Gaborone City Council](#) — accessed 2026-08-12

[Kampamba et al. 2018, Int'l J. of Housing Markets and Analysis — Housing delivery to the low income in Botswana](#) — accessed 2026-08-12

[Ikgopoleng & Cavric 2007, Spatium — An evaluation of the self-help housing scheme in Botswana, case of Gaborone city](#) — accessed 2026-08-12

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