

ENABLING THE RIGHT TO BUILD

THROUGH HOUSING SUPPORT CENTRES



Backyard Matters is a partnership initiative between the Development Action Group (DAG) and Isandla Institute. The project recognises that backyard housing is a community-driven response to housing shortages for many who fall through the cracks of state programming and unaffordable private rentals. Backyard housing, however, remains a neglected and sometimes invisible sector. The project is aimed at strengthening the backyard rental market and contributing towards well-managed, quality rental stock that provides affordable, dignified and safe housing solutions in thriving neighbourhoods. The project thus advocates for inclusive policy and programming that embraces the voice, needs and agency of backyard residents and landlords as an integral part of the municipal community. Backyard Matters is funded by Comic Relief.



This publication is based on the animation titled:
Enabling the Right to Build through
Housing Support Centres'



The animation is a synopsis of the research paper
titled: Enabling the Right to Build through Housing
Support Centres'(2022)



The main arguments of the research paper are
distilled into a proposition paper: Enabling the Right
to Build through Housing Support Centres: A propo-
sition, 2022.



For further resources visit:
<https://isandla.org.za/en/resources>

Cover image: Isandla Institute/Anotherlove Productions

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A HOUSE IS A SHELTER AGAINST THE ELEMENTS, A REFUGE AND AN ASSET. BUT MANY PEOPLE LIVING IN TOWNS AND CITIES ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA CANNOT ACCESS PUBLIC HOUSING OR AFFORDABLE RENTALS, SO THEY END UP LIVING IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND INFORMAL BACKYARD DWELLINGS.

AMID THE HOUSING SHORTAGE AND BUDGET CONSTRAINTS, GOVERNMENT IS SHIFTING FOCUS TO PROVIDING SERVICED SITES. BUT WHAT ABOUT HOUSING?

BUT WHAT ABOUT HOUSING?

THE RIGHT TO BUILD

WE BELIEVE THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GOVERNMENT TO ENABLE THE RIGHT TO BUILD AND SELF BUILD.



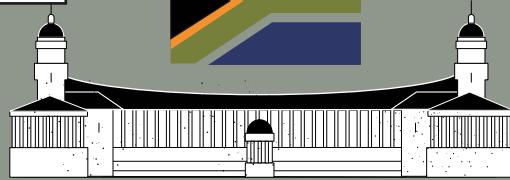
THE RIGHT TO BUILD IS ABOUT EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO BUILD THEIR OWN HOMES



WITH GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FROM THE STATE AND OTHER ROLE PLAYERS.



STATE

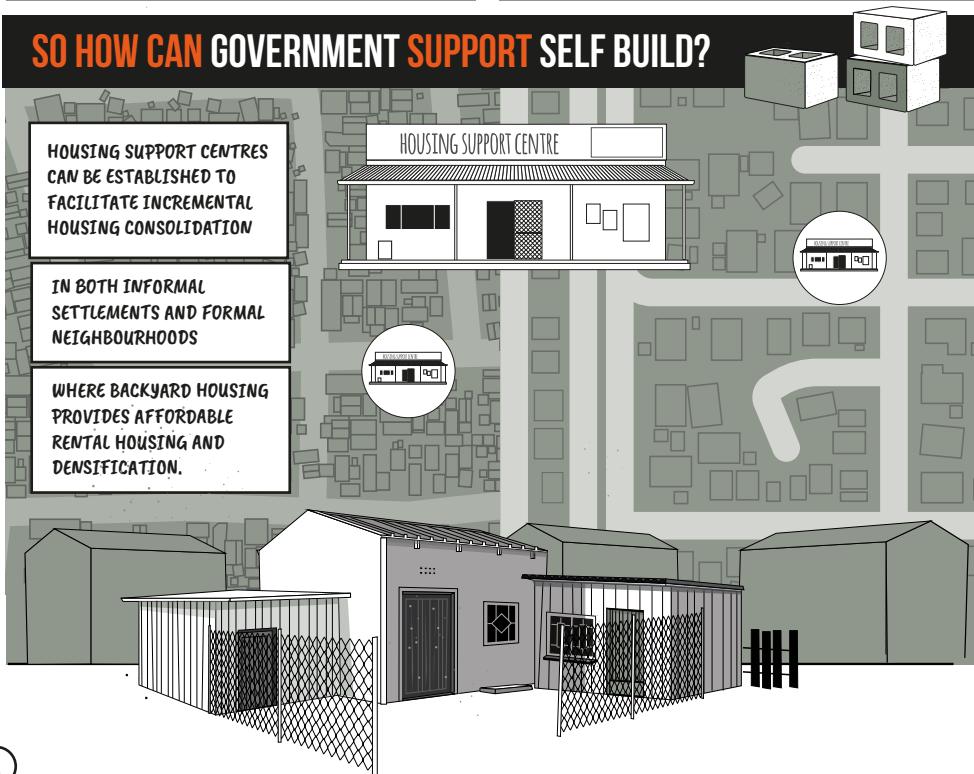
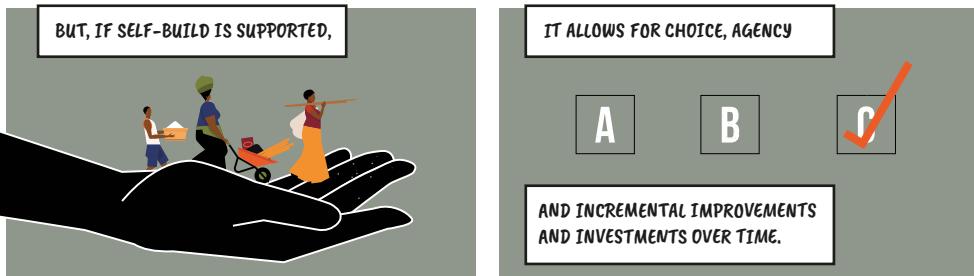


IF GOVERNMENT DOESN'T ENABLE AND SUPPORT PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO SELF-BUILD, TO BUILD THEIR OWN HOMES,

MANY PEOPLE WILL CONSTRUCT WHAT THEY CAN AFFORD,

SELF BUILD





THE HOUSING SUPPORT CENTRES SHOULD PROVIDE OFFERINGS THAT SUIT THE LOCAL CONTEXT, SUCH AS:



FOR HOUSING SUPPORT CENTRES TO BE SUCCESSFUL, MUNICIPALITIES MUST HAVE THE CAPACITY TO RUN THEM. IF MUNICIPALITIES ARE UNDER-CAPACITATED, THEY WILL REQUIRE ASSISTANCE FROM PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FINANCE PROVIDERS CAN OFFER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND SERVICES.

MUNICIPALITIES

FINANCE
PROVIDERS

CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANISATIONS

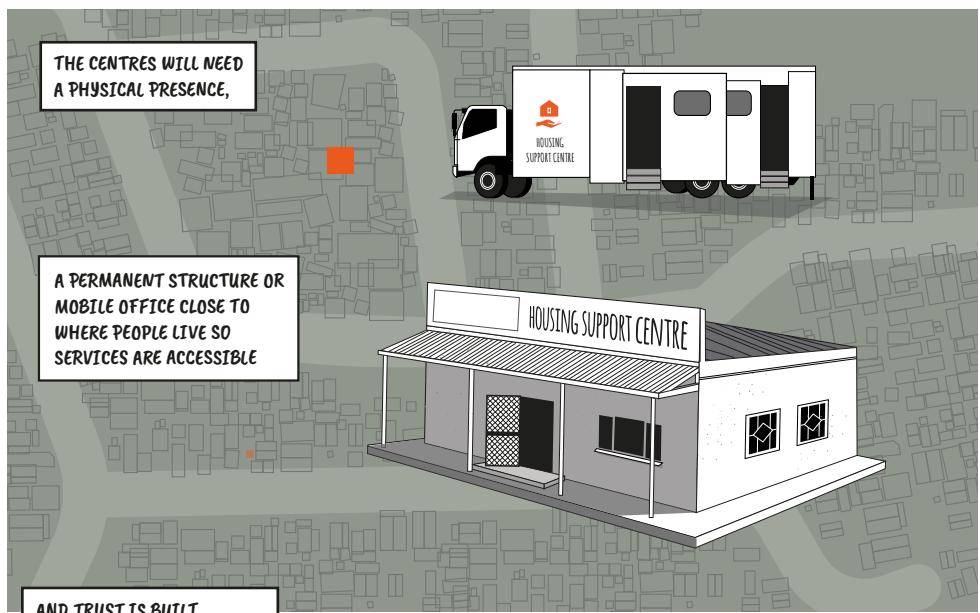
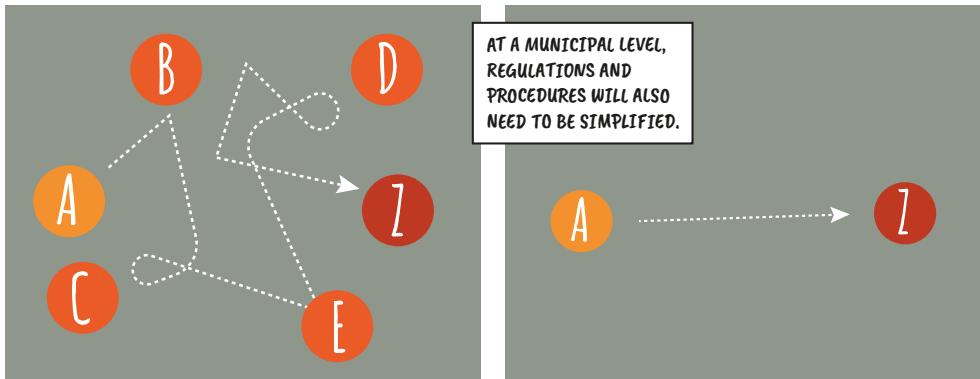


PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT

THE PRIVATE
SECTOR

NATIONAL BUILDING REGULATIONS **MUST BE SIMPLIFIED**, PRIORITISING
HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND TITLE DEED REGISTRATION ADDRESSED.





INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

DIGITAL TOOLS AND OTHER OUTREACH STRATEGIES CAN ALSO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT.

TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY-BASED KNOWLEDGE,

EPWP WORKERS CAN BE TRAINED ON HOUSING RIGHTS AND HOW TO ACCESS HOUSING SUPPORT.



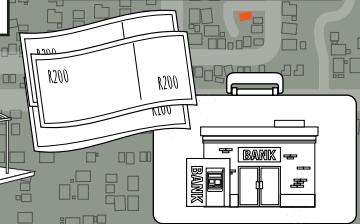
FUNDING CAN COME FROM EXISTING GRANTS,

EXISTING GRANTS

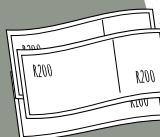
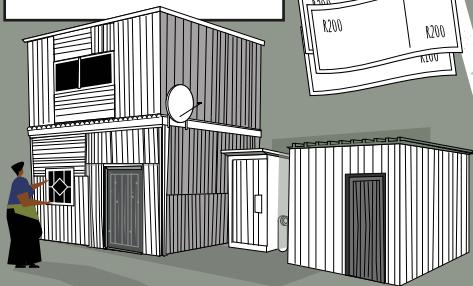


BUT AS THE CENTRES BECOME MORE PROMINENT IN COMMUNITIES,

DEDICATED FUNDING AND PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT WILL BE REQUIRED.



HOUSEHOLDS WANTING TO BUILD AND IMPROVE THEIR HOME INCREMENTALLY WILL NEED FINANCIAL SUPPORT.



A VOUCHER SCHEME CAN HELP RESIDENTS BUY BUILDING MATERIALS



OR PAY A LOCAL CONTRACTOR TO CONSTRUCT A TOP-STRUCTURE.



HOUSEHOLDS CAN COMPLEMENT THIS WITH THEIR OWN FUNDING, LIKE SAVINGS, STOKVELS OR LOANS.



HOUSING SUPPORT CENTRES CAN ENABLE THE RIGHT TO BUILD AND ADVANCE HOUSING RIGHTS. BY CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASED HOUSING SUPPLY AND IMPROVING LOCAL LIVING CONDITIONS, URGENT HOUSING NEEDS ARE MET



AND NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE TRANSFORMED.

**ISN'T THIS A FUTURE
WORTH BUILDING!**

