

## Campbell Mayer

Campbell Mayer is an affordable housing developer and builder with over 25 years of experience leading development teams and forging partnerships to deliver impactful, purpose-driven housing in emerging markets. He is the co-founder of Africa Housing Builders (AHB), a social housing company that combines technology, finance, sustainability, and local partnerships to transform real estate markets across urban Africa. AHB creates affordable homeownership opportunities by balancing market-rate developments with low-cost community housing, providing investors with a stable, socially impactful platform to engage with African markets. Campbell sees housing as the foundation of social equity in the developing world, a bridge between formal and informal economies, and a critical link between national development goals and individual empowerment.

He first came to Uganda in 2004 to join a community-based housing research group of NGO clients in Kampala and created a participatory development process to design, build, and finance low-cost housing villages with innovative mortgage solutions. After recognizing the limitations of NGO-based housing delivery, he co-founded a for-profit housing venture in Accra, Ghana, aligning capital markets with affordable housing production. His portfolio includes social housing, informal settlement upgrading, peri-urban mixed-density developments, and mass-market housing delivery systems. His work emphasizes building technologies and green construction methods that are locally practical and economically viable, minimizing environmental impacts.

In addition to his role at AHB, Campbell co-founded the MIT CREATE Program, a long-running collaboration between MIT, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and grassroots organizations in Durban, South Africa. The program fostered entrepreneurship in marginalized communities through local skills development, technology transfer, and support for endemic commercial ventures. Campbell also provides strategic advisory services to institutions, foundations, companies, NGOs, and individuals working in emerging markets. He is currently with the Affordable Housing Institute (AHI), where he focuses on empowering housing entrepreneurs and removing development barriers in urbanizing regions.

**Potential support areas:** Affordable housing development and construction; project delivery and execution; development partnerships; locally appropriate building technologies and green construction; scaling housing delivery in African markets.