

- There is a need for a classification or typology of informal settlement processes which accommodates the spectrum of legality / illegality alluded to earlier, as well as the diversity of settlement types, systems and practices which the undifferentiated application of the term “informal settlement” tends to ignore.
- In particular, the category of irregular subdivision/ informal land development is not generally applied in South Africa. Although it is neither as prevalent nor as developed as the highly sophisticated system in Brazil, for example, there is sufficient evidence of its existence for greater understanding of this settlement type and its associated processes, systems and practices to be developed.
- Although it is widely accepted that subsidised houses are being transferred informally, more systematic and quantitative information is required on the scale and nature of this process. The reasons behind informal sales particularly need to be understood.
- Similarly, although some information exists on the quantitative significance of informal rental supply option (e.g. backyard shacks), it needs to be extended to achieve greater geographic coverage, in order to develop a more systematic understanding of this process and what the dynamics driving it are.
- There is a lack of information on evictions (for all housing types: formal housing, informal settlements and informal rental accommodation). Information required includes numbers of people being evicted, reasons for eviction and what happens to them subsequent to the eviction.
- Finally, more information is needed about what land administration functions are performed unofficially in informal settlements and how they are performed.

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