ASIVIKELANE
LET’S PROTECT ONE ANOTHER

TRACKING BASIC SERVICES IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2020

Asivikelane provides a link between municipal governments and informal settlement residents faced with severe water, sanitation and refuse removal shortages during the Covid-19 crisis. This initiative is a joint effort of seven local organizations, up from four, with the recent arrival of Grassroot, the Development Action Group and the Social Justice Coalition. This growing network enables us to reach 133 informal settlements in five metropolitan municipalities and five smaller towns.

Over the last week, 335 informal settlement residents from 133 informal settlements submitted responses. This week we also added 5 non-metro municipalities to the 5 metros: uMsunduzi, Emalahleni, Mossel Bay, Tulbagh and Knysna. Detailed results are available at: www.internationalbudget.org/covid-monitoring/

GREEN: 90% or more respondents said yes  ORANGE: Between 60% and 90% of respondents said yes  RED: 60% or fewer respondents said yes

HOTSPOTS

• The cleaning of communal toilets remains at crisis proportions and if left unaddressed could contribute significantly to the spread of the virus in metro and non-metro informal settlements.

• In some settlements residents report that toilets have not been cleaned since the start of the lockdown or even further back.

• In Cape Town, eThekwini, Buffalo City and Johannesburg the repair of broken toilets and insufficient numbers of toilets is also a problem.

• Residents often clean toilets themselves, but without disinfectant and protective gear this poses a significant infection risk.

• Toilet cleaning is an even larger problem in smaller towns, coupled with the fact that some residents don’t have access to municipal sanitation at all.

GOOD NEWS!

• eThekwini, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni are now responding to the problems that residents reported through Asivikelane.

• In Cape Town persistent water shortages in Imizamo Yethu have been resolved.

• In eThekwini taps were installed at Mandeni that was previously cut off from water by the lockdown.

• In Mountain View in Johannesburg broken taps and water pressure issues were addressed.

• In Buffalo City broken taps and toilets were fixed in Duncan Village and Scenery Park.

• In Ekurhuleni, Barcelona residents received JoJo tanks.

• In Westside Park and Kliptown Block in Johannesburg more toilets were provided and toilets are being cleaned more regularly.