

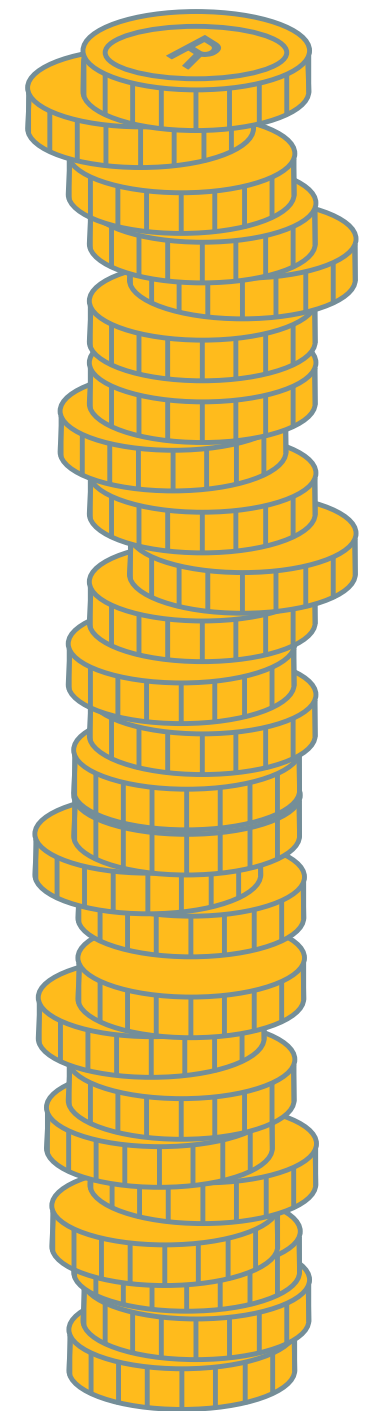
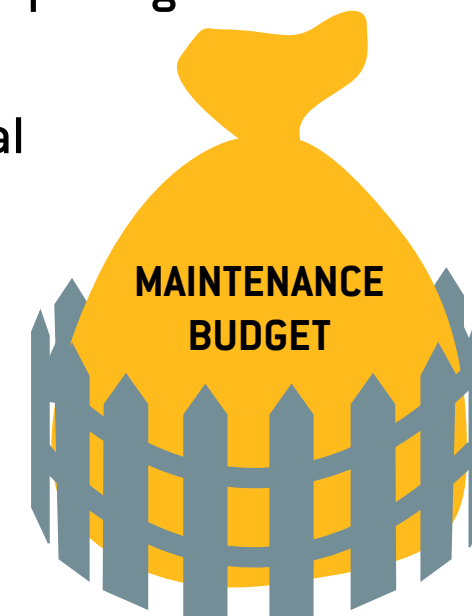
No time for budget games

24 FEBRUARY 2021: ASIVIKELANE 14 reports that water, sanitation and refuse removal services in informal settlements have deteriorated all over the country in the last few months, with not a single green traffic light for metro service delivery. As national COVID-19 relief funding to metros has run out and metros' own revenues have declined, they have started reducing services to informal settlements. **Contracts for filling water tanks have been allowed to expire, the regularity of toilet cleaning has decreased and maintenance teams have been reduced in size.**

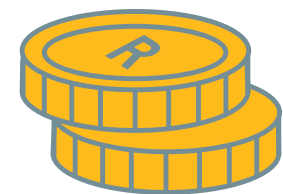
Today Minister Mboweni tables the national budget, and metros and local municipalities will table their budgets by the end of March. There can be no doubt that metros need further national support to resume and extend some of these services. But there are things that metros can and should do themselves to improve this situation. Now is not the time for budget games between national and metro governments.

What metros can do to improve informal settlement services without breaking the bank:

- Increase and ring-fence funding in the overall maintenance budget for repairing informal settlement taps and toilets.
- Increase and ring-fence the informal settlement share of refuse removal budgets.
- Shift funding from large upgrading projects to large-scale incremental basic services provision.
- Publish more detailed spending plans and service norms for informal settlements to enable the public and oversight actors to participate meaningfully in the local government budget process.



RE-ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES



High-cost upgrading projects

Incremental basic services

IN YOUR INFORMAL SETTLEMENT OVER THE LAST 7 DAYS...

METRO



...WAS THERE ENOUGH WATER FOR ALL RESIDENTS?

- BUFFALO CITY
- CAPE TOWN
- EKURHULENI
- ETHEKWINI
- JOHANNESBURG
- NELSON MANDELA BAY
- TSHWANE



...WERE THE TOILETS CLEANED/ DRAINED?

- BUFFALO CITY
- CAPE TOWN
- EKURHULENI
- ETHEKWINI
- JOHANNESBURG
- NELSON MANDELA BAY
- TSHWANE



...WAS THE WASTE COLLECTED?

- BUFFALO CITY
- CAPE TOWN
- EKURHULENI
- ETHEKWINI
- JOHANNESBURG
- NELSON MANDELA BAY
- TSHWANE

NON-METRO



...WAS THERE ENOUGH WATER FOR ALL RESIDENTS?

- EMALAHLENI
- EMFULENI
- KNYSNA
- MADIBENG
- MOSSEL BAY
- MSUNDUZI
- WITZENBERG



...WERE THE TOILETS CLEANED/ DRAINED?

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...WAS THE WASTE COLLECTED?

- EMALAHLENI
- EMFULENI
- KNYSNA
- MADIBENG
- MOSSEL BAY
- MSUNDUZI
- WITZENBERG

RED: 60% or fewer of respondents said yes

DARK ORANGE: Between 60% and 75% of respondents said yes

LIGHT ORANGE: Between 75% and 90% of respondents said yes

GREEN: 90% or more of respondents said yes

GOVERNMENT NEVER FIXES OUR TAPS AND TOILETS

Communal taps and toilets in informal settlements are used by many people and need regular maintenance. Over 75% of residents report that it takes a month or longer for government to fix broken taps and toilets. One resident's comment summarises an all-too-common experience: "They take more than 3-6 months to fix or never fix it at all. Sometimes the community members fix problems themselves."

How quickly does the municipality fix broken taps or toilets?

| METRO | NON-METRO |
|-----------|-----------|
| WEEK 22% | WEEK 14% |
| MONTH 28% | MONTH 12% |
| NEVER 49% | NEVER 74% |

DATA NOTES: The results reflecting how fast a municipality responds when a tap or toilet breaks excludes the answers of residents who indicated that they do not have access to municipal-provided taps and toilets. Knysna and Mossel Bay's traffic lights for toilet cleaning/draining are greyed out because residents clean their own toilets with materials provided by the government. **849 residents from 211 settlements** responded over the last week. Residents from the Mangaung Metro Municipality have also started to participate in Asivikelane. Detailed results and comments from residents themselves are available at: www.asivikelane.org.za For more information contact: infos@internationalbudget.org twitter: @ibp_sa facebook: internationalbudgetpartnershipsouthafrica We are delighted to welcome Letsema La Sechaba Community Shield Foodbank and Luthando OVC Care Centre to Asivikelane.