

Submission to the City of Joburg 2021/2022 Draft Budget

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Submitted by: Planact and 1to1 Development Agency as part of the Asivikelane Campaign representing informal settlements communities in City of Joburg (CoJ)

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Based on an analysis of the City of Joburg and its entities draft budgets for 2021/22, and on behalf of informal settlements in Johannesburg, Planact and 1 to 1 submits the following key recommendations:

1. **Increase the budget allocation for water in informal settlements and provide each household with their own tap.**
 - According to the budget documents there is no increase in the delivery of standpipes to informal settlements and the funding that is allocated is insufficient to respond to the water backlog in Johannesburg's informal settlements.
 - We therefore urge the Joburg Water to **allocate more funding** for the delivery of taps.
 - Furthermore, communal taps do not provide sufficient and safe water access and they often result in residents standing in long queues. This presents a health and safety risk. The City must work towards providing each household with their own standpipe/tap.

2. **Increase the budget allocation for sanitation in informal settlements and provide each household with their own toilet.**
 - Joburg Water has increased the targets for sanitation in informal settlements. However, we are concerned that the budget allocation for sanitation in 2021/22 has been reduced.
 - The plan to provide chemical toilets at a ratio of 1 toilet per 7 households is wholly inadequate.
 - Joburg Water must **increase the budget allocated** to toilets and work towards providing each household with their own toilet.

3. **Allocate dedicated funding for repairs and maintenance**
 - The City must have a dedicated **budget for maintaining, repairing, and servicing infrastructure** in informal settlements.
 - This includes the fixing of taps, cleaning and desludging chemical and VIP toilets and the fixing of the toilets.

4. **The City must allocate more funding for refuse removal service in informal settlements**
 - The City must **increase the budget** allocation for refuse removal to informal settlements and ensure that each household receives their own bin.

5. **The City must focus on interventions to meet the immediate needs of all informal settlements, even while planning long-term upgrading projects**
 - While upgrading projects contribute to addressing long term needs, the City of Joburg must not neglect the immediate needs of informal settlements, especially those that are not part of the upgrading plans.
 - The City must have a **dedicated budget** allocation for the provision of basic services i.e., permanent taps (standpipes) and flush toilets, electricity and a reliable solid waste service.

Asivikelane Campaign – voice of informal settlements about basic services

Planact and 1to1 are NGOs that have been working with informal settlements for over 40 years. Recently, with the International Budget Partnership South Africa and other partner organisations they formed the Asivikelane campaign. This is an initiative that supports communities in monitoring water, sanitation and refuse collection in informal settlements. The objective of the campaign is for informal settlement communities to have a voice during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic.

On a monthly basis, community members answer questions about the above basic services and Planact sends the reports and summaries to relevant key officials at the City.

Communities have made several comments on the IDP through the Asivikelane reports and the recent IDP public meetings. This submission is based on community inputs and reflects the needs of informal settlement residents in the City. The submission is also informed by a detailed analysis of the City’s draft 2021/22 budget and offers recommendations for practical steps that the City can take to ensure that the budget responds to the needs of its most vulnerable residents.

1. Increase the budget allocation for water in informal settlements and provide each household with their own tap

According to the budget documents there is no increase in the delivery of standpipes to informal settlements in the next financial year. R50m has been set aside for this in the city’s draft capital budget for 2021/22, which is the exact same amount budgeted for in 2020/21– see table below.

Capital budget for the delivery of standpipes

<i>2021/22 draft MTREF</i>				
<i>Project name</i>	<i>Budget 2020/21</i>	<i>Draft Budget 2021/22</i>	<i>2022/23</i>	<i>2023/24</i>
Basic water service: New basic water and sewer services	R50 million	R50 million	R50 million	R50 million

*Source: Draft 2021/22 - 2023/24 medium term budget and 2020-21 Asivikelane Budget Analysis

This is very concerning, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for safe and reliable water and sanitation access. This is particularly important in informal settlements, where the burden of basic service delivery deficiencies is felt the most.

Furthermore, the current supply communal taps and temporary water access through tanks and trucks do not provide sufficient and safe water access and often results in residents standing in long queues. This presents a health and safety risk. According to our Asivikelane data, over 20% of residents reported *not* having sufficient water access over the last six months.

We note that in Joburg Water’s business plan, 3,325 informal settlements households will be provided with at least a minimum level of service (LoS) 1.¹ LoS 1 for water is communal standpipes or yard connections and the business plan specifically mentions that the main intervention in 2021/22 will be communal standpipes. However, according to CoJ’s draft 2021/22 IDP, there is a water backlog of 8,389 households, with the backlog defined as the number of households which does not have access to piped water within 200m of their dwellings. This means that there will still be 5,064 households

¹ https://www.joburg.org.za/documents/~/Documents/Entities%20Business%20Plans/Annexure_A2_2021-21_JWater%20final%20%20Draft%20Business%20Plan-%2019%20March.pdf pages 51, 90

without the minimum level of service for water in Johannesburg even if the target set in the draft IDP is reached by the end of the 2021/22 financial year.²

We urge the Joburg Water to allocate more funding for the delivery of taps and it must work towards providing each household with their own standpipe/tap.

2. Increase the budget allocation for sanitation in informal settlements and provide each household with their own toilet

Joburg Water has increased the targets for sanitation in informal settlements from 2,895 households in 2020/21 to 5,720 households in 2021/22. However, we are concerned that the budget allocation for sanitation has been reduced from R75 million in 2020/21 to R35 million in 2021/22. This raises a number of questions about how the budget is formulated, the level of service to be provided and how reliable these plans are.

Operating budget for the delivery of basic sanitation (VIP toilets, ablution blocks)

	<i>Budget 2020/21</i>	<i>Draft Budget 2021/22</i>
Number of additional households provided access to basic sanitation at minimum LoS 1 in informal Settlements	R75 million	R 35 million

*Sources: JW draft business plan 2021/22 and Asivikelane Budget Analysis 2020/21

The minimum service level for sanitation in Joburg is Ventilated Improved Pit-latrines (VIP), waterborne toilets and ablution blocks. VIP toilets and ablution blocks are the key interventions for the coming financial year, according to the draft business plan.

Even if the 2021/22 target is met, there will still be a major backlog of 114 389 households without access to basic sanitation and most of these households are in informal settlements.

Nominal sanitation services are to be provided through chemical toilets, which are serviced twice a week. Joburg Water aims to provide these chemical toilets at a ratio of one toilet to seven households. However, no budget allocation is given for the provision of these toilets and the plan to provide sanitation at a ratio of 1 toilet per 7 households is wholly inadequate.

Joburg Water must increase the budget allocated to toilets and work towards providing each household with their own toilet.

3. Dedicate funds to repairs and maintenance to protect residents and the City's infrastructure investment

The draft budget indicates on page 122 that the total repairs and maintenance budget in the City increases from R3.68bn in 2020/21, to R3.85bn in 2021/22. The table below shows that most of the classes of infrastructure are set to benefit from the total increase. While the increased budget allocations for maintenance and repairs is welcomed, the budget does not provide any indication how

² https://www.joburg.org.za/documents/_Documents/DRAFT%20IDP%202021-26/2021-26%20FINAL%20DRAFT-%20Council%2019%20MARCH%202021.pdf page 34

much (or any) of this has been ringfenced for the maintenance of informal settlement infrastructure such as taps and toilets.

The fixing of taps, cleaning and desludging chemical and VIP toilets and the fixing of the toilets is critical to ensure that the residents have safe, reliable and consistent access to services. It's also necessary to protect the City's assets and infrastructure investment. We therefore urge the City to have a dedicated budget for maintaining, repairing, and servicing infrastructure in informal settlements.

4. The City must allocate more funding for refuse removal services in informal settlements.

The draft 2021/22 IDP shows that about 15% of households (or 1.6 million households) in Johannesburg do not receive a weekly refuse collection service. However, the IDP does not indicate how many of these are households in informal settlements and no targets are given for the eradication of the refuse removal backlog.

Pikitup's business plan states that informal settlements remain a problem as the areas do not have adequate "receptacles", which includes bins and skips, while the population exceeds the number of bags that can be provided to contain waste generated within informal settlements.

Despite this, only R2 million has been set aside for waste bulk containers (of which it is not known how much will go to informal settlements). While this allocation is an increase from last year, the amount pales in comparison to what smaller metros in the province plan to spend on bulk waste containers.

Pikitup's Capital Budget

<i>Medium term capital budget</i>	<i>Adjusted budget 2020/21</i>	<i>Budget 2021/22</i>	<i>Budget 2022/23</i>	<i>Budget 2023/24</i>
Pikitup TOTAL	R146 million	R175 million	R100 million	R181 million
Waste Bulk Containers	R1 million	R2 million	R1 million	R1 million

*Source: Draft Medium Term Budget 2021/22 - 2023/24

Informal settlement residents have a right to a safe and healthy living environment – Pikitup's current budget does not afford them this. The City must therefore increase the budget allocation for refuse removal to informal settlements and ensure that each household receives their own bin.

5. The City must focus on interventions to meet the immediate needs of all informal settlements, even while planning long-term upgrading projects.

While the department of housing is planning two key capital projects which delivers services to informal settlements, namely: the formalisation of informal settlements project and the site and services project.

The outcome of the formalisation project is that an informal settlement is formalised when the layout has been developed, the layout plans approved and interim services have been installed. On the other hand the site and services project provides all services to a site, on which beneficiaries can then build their own houses.

Informal settlement upgrading projects in the Department of Housing's capital budget.

Project	Budget 2020/21	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23	Budget 2023/24
Formalisation of informal settlements	R221 million	R446 million	R484 million	R515 million
Site and services: Formalisation of informal settlements across the city	R5 million	R10 million	----	R80 million
Total capital budget for housing	R1,53 billion	R1,1 billion	R1,39 billion	R1,96 billion

*Source: Draft Medium Term budget 2021/22 - 2023/24 ; Asivikela Budget Analysis 2020/21

Both projects have seen their allocations double from 2020/21 to 2021/22. While this is a positive development and large upgrading projects contribute to addressing long term needs; they are slow to materialize. The City of Joburg must not neglect the immediate and pressing needs of informal settlements, especially those that are not part of the upgrading plans. As such, the City must have a dedicated budget allocation for the provision of permanent taps (standpipes) and flush toilets, electricity and a reliable solid waste service for **all** informal settlements.

The City must also be transparent and engage with residents on its plans. For the two projects above, the City must publish the names of the settlements that will benefit and the timelines for delivery.

Residents are also calling on the City to be effective and efficient in spending money allocated to informal settlements to ensure that there is no underspending during implementation.

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