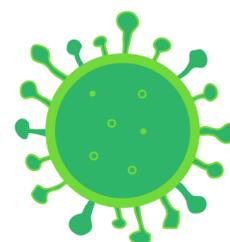


# Despite improvements, COVID-19 continues to disrupt primary healthcare services



We are pleased to report a progressive improvement in waiting times at clinics since the inception of the Asivikelane Health campaign in the Eastern Cape three months ago. In June, 40% of residents reported waiting longer than two hours to be assisted – that figure has almost halved to 22% in August, demonstrating that **clinics are responding to the advocacy efforts initiated through Asivikelane Health.**

Despite this improvement, some clinics have seen a decline in service delivery. At Needscamp clinic, for example, there was a 13% drop in the availability of health care services, and in Potsdam a 20% drop in the availability of medication. At Openshaw there was a 13% increase in residents who spent more than three hours at the clinic.

Buffalo City accounts for 11% of the Eastern Cape's population, but 15% of its COVID-19 cases. Following the move to adjusted alert level 3 in July, the rapid implementation of stringent prevention measures became vital. The Asivikelane Health results demonstrate this, with 98% of residents reporting that clinics implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, such as social distancing and masking. In addition, clinics commenced mass community-based vaccination drives in villages and towns across the Buffalo City Health District. **The pressure that the COVID-19 drive has generated on clinic capacity has put significant strain on other medical services.**

Next month, Asivikelane Health will expand to more clinics and health districts in the Eastern Cape. The aim is to use the lessons and tools implemented in this pilot to improve services at other clinics that are also struggling to provide adequate care.

## GOOD NEWS

- At Zikhova, Openshaw, Twecu, Mpongo, Ncera, Newlands and Thembaletu clinics, all residents confirmed that they **received their medication during their last visit.**
- Ncera, Thembaletu, Twecu and Zikhova clinics performed particularly **well across all indicators.**
- In Thembaletu, Newlands, Twecu, Zikhova and Masiphile clinics, all residents reported that they were **given information on how to prevent COVID-19 infection.**

## HOTSPOTS

- At Potsdam clinic, 60% of residents **waited more than two hours** to be assisted and 40% of them did not receive the medication they needed.
- At Needscamp clinic, 33% of residents did not have access to the medical assistance that they needed on the day and 22% **did not receive the medication** they required.
- 15% of residents reported **spending more than three hours** at the clinic during their last visit. Staff shortages at Openshaw, Ncera, Needscamp, Potsdam, and Masiphile clinics contributed to longer wait times.



**% of residents assisted at clinic within 2 hours**



## ON YOUR MOST RECENT CLINIC VISIT IN THE LAST MONTH...

BUFFALO CITY CLINICS	...WERE YOU SEEN WITHIN 2 HOURS?	...WAS MEDICINE YOU NEEDED AVAILABLE?	...WERE YOU GIVEN INFO ON PREVENTING COVID-19 INFECTION?
THEMBALETHU	●	●	●
NEWLANDS	●	●	●
POTSDAM	●	●	●
NEEDSCAMP	●	●	●
NCERA	●	●	●
MPONGO	●	●	●
TWECU	●	●	●
OPENSHAW	●	●	●
ZIKHOVA	●	●	●
MASIPHILE	●	●	●

Respondents that said YES: 60% or less (red), 61 – 75% (orange), 75 – 89% (yellow), 90% or more (green)

DATA NOTES: 88 residents across 10 clinics were interviewed in the second week of August 2021. 87% of residents interviewed are female. Detailed results and comments from residents themselves are available at [www.asivikelane.org/health](http://www.asivikelane.org/health). For more information please contact: [infos@internationalbudget.org](mailto:infos@internationalbudget.org) or [kaugust@spf.org.za](mailto:kaugust@spf.org.za) Twitter: @FoundationSmall Facebook: @smallprojectsfoundation Instagram: @spfinfo website: [www.spf.org.za](http://www.spf.org.za)