

## Let's talk about Dignified Living in Informal Settlements

### ASIVIKELANE WESTERN CAPE: facilitating community-government partnership

Asivikelane gives informal settlement residents a platform to engage government directly about their access to water, sanitation and waste removal services. Each month residents answer questions about how they experience these services. The results are published and shared with government to enable a swift response.

Asivikelane Western Cape specifically focuses on deepening the engagement between informal settlement residents and government in the Stellenbosch and Knysna municipalities.

Residents will meet with municipal officials on a regular basis to discuss the results and address service delivery issues. Several meetings have already taken place and both municipalities have pledged support for more inclusive approaches to service delivery. As this pilot progresses, we will grow the number of informal settlements and residents to strengthen this partnership. This publication shares the first round of results for Knysna.

## Repairing taps and toilets can restore dignity for Stellenbosch residents



Stellenbosch municipality has identified *Dignified Living* as a Strategic Focus Area in its latest Integrated Development Plan (IDP). But the IDP needs to say more about how the municipality will invest in dignified living conditions for those in informal settlements. In this first pilot round, **Asivikelane Western Cape** spoke to residents from three informal settlements in Stellenbosch. They identified issues that the municipality must address to restore dignity, and they put the spotlight on repairs and maintenance.

Residents report that while water is provided via communal taps, water supply is unreliable because when taps break, they are never repaired. Most residents also do not have a safe way to dispose of household waste. There is also a shortage of toilets and residents, particularly females, are concerned for their safety because there is often no lighting inside toilets.

In Langrug, residents in two sections of settlement were excited to report that the municipality fixed all toilet doors, after many months (left). This improvement is a direct outcome of communities engaging the municipality.

**We ask Stellenbosch Municipality to talk to informal settlement residents about these issues – they have the knowledge needed to make their communities safer and healthier communities.**



42 residents from Enkanini, Langrug and Azania informal settlements were engaged in April 2022. 86% of participants are female. Detailed results and comments from residents themselves are available at [www.asivikelane.org/western-cape-releases](http://www.asivikelane.org/western-cape-releases). For more information please contact: [dag@dag.org.za](mailto:dag@dag.org.za) Twitter: @DAG\_activism Facebook: @developmentactiongroup Instagram: @developmentactiongroup website: [www.dag.org.za](http://www.dag.org.za) Find Asivikelane across social media on: @Asivikelane

