



ASIVIKELANE

LET'S PROTECT ONE ANOTHER

VOICES OF INFORMAL
SETTLEMENT RESIDENTS
ABOUT BASIC SERVICES



one to one
AGENCY OF ENGAGEMENT

Submission to Ekurhuleni Municipality 2022/2023 Draft Budget

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Submitted by: Planact and 1to1 Agency of Engagement as part of the Asivikelane Campaign representing informal settlement communities in Ekurhuleni Municipality.

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Based on an analysis of the City of Ekurhuleni's 2022/23 draft budget, informal settlement residents in Ekurhuleni, Planact and 1to1 submit the following key recommendations:

Our Asivikelane campaign results show that Ekurhuleni Municipality reports many more service delivery improvements compared to other metro municipalities. However, there are several challenges that remain, and this submission would like to draw attention to these.

- 1. The City must ensure that sufficient funds are allocated for the installation of enough standpipes and water tanks in informal settlements to ensure that these communities have sufficient access to water.**

Ekurhuleni informal settlement communities applaud the City's plan to continue to provide interim services instead of waiting for long-term upgrading projects. However, the allocation for new standpipes and water tanks in the 2022/23 draft budget has not increased from the 2021/22 budget and it is unlikely that this allocation is enough to ensure sufficient access to water (see page 3).

- 2. The City must increase the budget allocation for the delivery of chemical toilets to improve the toilet-to-household ratio, and bring it closer to one toilet per household.**



The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) reports that the ratio of chemical toilets to households improved from 1:10 to 1:5 in some informal settlements in 2021. The budget documents do not, however, specify if 1:5 is the target ratio that the metro would like to achieve in *all* informal settlements. Moreover, the budget indicates that the metro plans to rent the same number of new chemical toilets with less money than last year (see page 4).

3. The City must increase their maintenance budget to bring it closer to the National Treasury guideline of 8%, and also create a specific budget allocation for repairs and maintenance of water and sanitation services in informal settlements.

The City only budgeted 4.1% of the value of their Property, Plants and Equipment (PPE) for total maintenance and repairs. This is almost 50% less than the National Treasury's guideline of 8%.

The budget also does not show what is allocated specifically for repairs and maintenance of communal taps and toilets in informal settlements, which means that they could easily be neglected in favour of formal areas (see page 5).

4. The City must allocate more funds for waste collection services in informal settlements.

It concerns Ekurhuleni communities that there is no increase in the budget for walk-in bulk containers. Communities have indicated that they do not have enough walk-in and other containers (such as skips) in their settlements and would welcome weekly delivery of plastic refuse bags or wheelie bins.

While the City is purchasing ten more walk-in containers, it is not clear whether these will be placed in informal settlements or elsewhere. For this reason, we also recommend the creation of a line item specific to informal settlements (see page 5).

5. The City must provide interim as well as permanent electricity services to all informal settlement communities for improved safety of residents, especially women and children.

The Ekurhuleni communities applaud the City for increasing its overall budget for the electrification of informal settlements (see page 6). However, the budget does not specify an allocation for the provision of interim solar lighting units service, nor does it specify which informal settlements will benefit from the overall increase to the budget for permanent electricity. Electrification will contribute to the safety of residents because informal settlements use communal services and lighting plays a big role when it comes to safety around communal services.

6. The City must be more transparent when it comes to upgrading projects.

While it is commendable that the City is focusing on both the upgrading and provision of interim services to informal settlements, the communities are recommending more transparency when it comes to upgrading projects. Transparency about the availability and accessibility of land, and the transparency of what the upgrading projects entail, will enable communities to participate and buy into these projects (see page 6).

Asivikelane assessment of informal settlements services in Ekurhuleni

Planact and 1to1 are NGOs that have been working with informal settlements for over 40 years. Recently, with International Budget Partnership South Africa (IBP South Africa) and other partner organisations, they formed the Asivikelane campaign. This initiative supports informal settlement communities to monitor water, sanitation and refuse collection and to engage with their metro about these services. The objective of the initiative is to give a voice to informal settlement residents who face severe basic services shortages in South Africa's major cities.

The submission is based on residents' comments on the IDP, their responses to the draft budget and an analysis of the City's draft 2022/23 budget. In addition to the analysis, the submission offers recommendations for practical steps that the City can take to ensure that the budget responds more fully to the needs of its most vulnerable residents.

Challenges experienced by informal settlement residents

Water challenges

In April 2022, 10.7% of residents said that they did not have enough water. Some residents reported that they do not have access to taps and rely on water tanks for water provision. Some of those with communal taps said that there are not enough taps and that some of them are broken. Residents who use water tanks also said that there are not enough tanks and that tanks are not filled often enough.

Sanitation challenges

Some residents still do not have access to toilets as they rely on self-dug pit toilets. Residents who use chemical toilets said that there are not enough toilets. In April 2022, 20.2% of residents also said that their toilets had

not been cleaned or drained in the previous 7 days.

Refuse collection challenges

In April 2022, 13.1% of residents said that they did not have any access to waste removal services.

Meanwhile, those who have some level of access to waste collection services said they do not have waste bins or refuse bags.

Challenges with the inadequate maintenance of taps and toilets in informal settlements

Residents also raised the lack of maintenance and repairs of taps and toilets as a major challenge. In March 2022, a third of residents said that when a tap or toilet is broken, it is never fixed. Another 13% of residents say that it takes longer than a week for maintenance and repairs to take place after a fault is reported.

Fault reporting response times when Ekurhuleni residents lodge a water and sanitation complaint

Fixed	Number	%
A week or less	63	29,72%
A month or less	11	5,19%
1 to 3 months	17	8,02%
Never	73	34,43%
I don't know	48	22,64%
Total	212	100,00%

*Source: Asivikelane 25 analysis results (data collected in March 2022).

Evidence from the metro's 2022/23 draft budget

The 2022/27 draft IDP states that 100% of informal settlements will be provided with interim basic services during the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years. This suggests that the metro will prioritise informal settlement residents' immediate needs for basic services rather than wait to provide basic services through long-term upgrading projects. Although we applaud this proposal by the metro, our analysis of the 2022/23 budget suggests that the metro has not allocated enough funding to realize this goal. Specifically, the unchanged budget allocations for the delivery of chemical toilets, water tanks and standpipes are of concern.

Allocations for the provision of interim and minimum level of sanitation and water access points

According to the 2022/27 draft IDP, the minimum standard for water is a tap inside the dwelling/yard or

piped water to a community that is within 200m of the piped water stand. The minimum standard for sanitation is either a flush toilet (sewerage system) and/or flush toilet (septic tank) and/or a pit toilet connected to ventilation (VIP). No household-to-service ratios are provided for communal taps or the minimum level of sanitation.

The 2022/27 draft IDP also says that Ekurhuleni plans to provide free chemical toilets as an interim service delivery measure while working on the minimum level of basic sanitation in parallel to this. The ratio of chemical toilets to households improved from 1:10 to 1:5 in some informal settlements in 2021, but the budget documents do not specify if 1:5 is the target ratio that the metro would like to achieve.¹

Allocations for the provision of water to informal settlements

Ekurhuleni will allocate R10 million in 2022/23 for the installation of 100 additional “Water access points” which include water standpipes and water tankers.² This amount could make a meaningful step towards providing water to the 10% of residents that don’t currently have access. As we indicate elsewhere, the main challenges in water provision are repairs and maintenance.

Allocations for sanitation to informal settlements

The 2022/23 draft capital budget does not specify allocations for the provision of flush or VIP toilets, making it impossible to see if the metro is allocating any funds to try and meet the minimum standard for sanitation.

The 2022/23 Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) shows that the Water and Sanitation department plans to provide informal settlement residents with 1 000 more chemical toilets by the end of the financial year. This is the same as the baseline target for 2021/22. What is difficult to understand is that the department has allocated R14 million for the toilets, a decrease of R1 million when compared to the 2021/22 allocation.

The metro does not provide any estimate of the backlog in the provision of sanitation, so it is unclear to what extent the 1 000 additional chemical toilets will improve access to sanitation for informal settlement residents. But the 1000 new toilets should make a meaningful step in this direction.

¹ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2022-2023/5395-a-f-16-2022-annexure-a/file.html>, page 33.

² <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2022-2023/5398-a-f-16-2022-annexure-d/file.html>, page 39.

Increase in the provision of emergency water and sanitation services

We applaud the metro for increasing the “W&S: Emergency SVC to informal settlement (Corporate)” project by 400%. Despite this significant increase, the specific services that the project includes is not indicated.

	Budget 2021/22	Draft Budget 2022/23
W&S: Emergency SVC to informal settlement (Corporate)	R2 million	R10 million

*Sources: IDP 2022/27 and Asivikelane Budget analysis 2021/22

Allocations for waste collection services

In Ekurhuleni, 170 000 households receive waste collection services in informal settlements. We congratulate the City for employing a Cooperatives management agent to establish community-based cooperatives who render basic waste management services in informal settlements.³ This, however, is not reflected in the 2022/23 budget as there are no increases in the allocations for “walk-in bulk containers” or any other mention of refuse removal in informal settlements in addition to this project.

Despite some residents reporting that they have no or inconsistent access to waste removal services, the 2022/23 SDBIP shows that there is no increase in the baseline provision of 10 walk-in bulk containers from 2021/22. In addition, it is not clear if these containers will solely benefit informal settlement residents and there are no other budget items which address refuse removal challenges in informal settlements in the 2022/23 budget book.

	Budget 2021/22	Draft Budget 2022/23
Walk-in bulk containers	R1.5 million	R1.5 million

*Sources: SDBIP 2022/23 and Asivikelane Budget analysis 2021/22

No ring-fenced budget allocations for maintenance and repairs

According to the National Treasury benchmark,⁴ municipalities must spend 8% of the carrying value of their PPE on maintenance and repairs. Ekurhuleni’s repairs and maintenance budget, which is set at R2.6 billion in

³ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2022-2023/5395-a-f-16-2022-annexure-a/file.html>, page 39.

⁴ See <http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Circulars/Pages/Circular71.aspx>

2022/23, is 4.1% of the value of PPE, a slight increase from 3.3% in 2021/22.⁵

In addition to the low allocation for PPE (half of the Treasury benchmark), the draft budget also does not indicate what share of this funding will go specifically to repairs and maintenance in informal settlements. While many areas in the metro need repair and maintenance, we indicated above the specific urgency of the repair and maintenance of taps and toilets in informal settlements. Without adequate repairs and maintenance, the service backlog will never be closed because taps and toilets break as fast as they are provided.

For this reason, we strongly recommend that the metro includes a specific budget item for repairs and maintenance of informal settlement taps and toilets and that this item is adequately resourced based on thorough costing.

Other allocations to services in Ekurhuleni informal settlements

More money for informal settlement electrification

The metro has increased its overall budget allocation for the electrification of informal settlements by 25%.

One of its interim measures is to provide residents with solar lighting units. However, the budget does not provide any specific allocations or plans for this project, and it is therefore not possible to assess the adequacy of this budget allocation. There is also no indication of how many, and which, informal settlements will benefit from both of these projects.

	Budget 2021/22	Draft Budget 2022/23
Electrification of Informal Settlements (Reblocking Areas) (Corporate)	R120 million	R150 million

*Sources: IDP 2022/27 and Asivikela Budget analysis 2021/22

Service delivery through longer term informal settlements upgrading

As indicated above, our understanding is that the metro will prioritise informal settlement residents'

⁵ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2022-2023/5395-a-f-16-2022-annexure-a/file.html>, page 134

immediate needs for basic services while they continue to work on long-term upgrading projects.

Ekurhuleni’s Human Settlements department identifies the “Servicing of stands for subsidised human settlements development” and the “Management of informal settlements by co-ordinating the provision of interim basic services” as its core functions which are relevant to informal settlement development.⁶ It is unclear what this means in practice as the 2022/23 – 2026/27 draft IDP shows that no households have been targeted for upgrading in 2022/23.⁷ The 2022/23 draft SDBIP includes specific targets related to informal settlements. Specifically, it states that 12 informal settlements were to be re-blocked in 2021/22, while in 2022/23 the target drops to 7 settlements. The SDBIP also says that 461 households from informal settlements were to be relocated in 2021/22, while in 2022/23 this increases to 1014 households. The 2022/23 budget again does not show if there have been allocations for sites and services projects. This is in stark contrast to what was outlined in the 2020/21 budget documents, which placed more emphasis on the upgrading of informal settlements through various projects which provide services in the medium and long term.⁸

Source of finance	Adjusted Budget 2021/22	% Spent (March 2022)	Draft Budget 2022/23
Urban Settlement Development Grant (USDG)	R1.3 billion	38.5%	R1.3 billion
Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG)	R657.5 million	18.4%	R700.9 million

*Source: 2022/23 – 2024/25 Capital budget

The Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) is a funding source dedicated to the upgrading of informal settlements. Whilst, the Urban Settlement Development Grant (USDG) can, amongst other things, be used for basic service delivery to informal settlements. Both grants are distributed to the metro by the national government. The allocation for the USDG 2022/23 remains unchanged and the ISUPG slightly increased. The draft capital budget presents these grants under the Ekurhuleni Human Settlement’s

⁶ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2022-2023/5396-a-f-16-2022-annexure-b/file.html>, page137-138

⁷ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2022-2023/5395-a-f-16-2022-annexure-a/file.html>, page 216.

⁸ https://asivikelane.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2020-12-07-asivikelane_budget-analysis-3-coekurhuleni-final.pdf, page 10-11.

departmental budget, with the USDG funding 22 projects and the ISUPG funding 33 projects. We cannot fully assess the adequacy of these budgets as we do not know the details of what these projects will deliver, and which settlements will benefit from them.