



# ASIVIKELANE

LET'S PROTECT ONE ANOTHER

VOICES OF INFORMAL  
SETTLEMENT RESIDENTS  
ABOUT BASIC SERVICES



Submission to the City of Johannesburg 2022/2023 Draft Budget

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Submitted by: Planact and 1to1 Agency of Engagement as part of the Asivikelane Campaign representing informal settlements communities in the City of Johannesburg.

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Based on an analysis of the City of Johannesburg's 2022/23 draft budget, the input of informal settlement residents in Johannesburg, Planact and 1to1 would like to submit the following recommendations:

- The City must say what it is budgeting for water tanks and trucks for water.

Informal settlement communities applaud the City for the 77% increase in the budget for standpipes (see page 4). It is, however, very concerning that the budget does not provide any allocations for water tanks or water trucks. Many settlements rely on water tanks and trucks for water. The City must allocate enough money to increase the number of water tanks in these settlements, as well as to ensure regular cleaning of these tanks.

- The City must create a plan and a budget allocation to replace old, dilapidated Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines (VIPs)

The informal settlement communities are concerned that the budget does not have any allocation for the replacement of VIPs. Many communities rely on old and dilapidated VIPs, which are dangerous to use. Residents request that the City plan and budget for the replacement of these toilets with permanent flush toilets.

- The City must say what it is budgeting for chemical toilets

Informal settlement residents applaud the City for planning to provide chemical toilets to 2 252 informal settlement households by the end of the 2022/23 financial year (see page 5). It is concerning that we cannot see how much money has been allocated for the planned delivery of these chemical toilets. Additionally, a list of informal settlements that will benefit from the above-mentioned plans should be provided.



- **The City must increase their maintenance budget to bring it closer to the National Treasury guideline of 8% of PPE. It should also create a specific budget allocation for repairs and maintenance of taps and toilets in informal settlements**

The City has only budgeted 5.2% of the value of its Property, Plants and Equipment (PPE) for maintenance and repairs, which is significantly less than the National Treasury's benchmark of 8%. Furthermore, there is a big decrease in Johannesburg Water's budget for the item "Operational Capital: Operations and Maintenance" and there is no dedicated budget for informal settlement maintenance and repairs. This is very concerning to residents because often taps, toilets and water tanks remain broken for a very long time. This results in communities not having access to water and sanitation even in areas that already have these services installed.

- **The City must allocate more money for waste collection services in informal settlements, including for bulk waste containers and plastic refuse bags**

Many residents do not receive a waste collection service or only receive it irregularly. They resort to illegal dumping, which poses a serious health hazard and is costly to the City. Pikitup's budget for bulk containers has, however, decreased (see page 7) and no money has been allocated for plastic refuse bags. Communities ask the City to prioritise waste collection in informal settlements, including the provision of refuse bags.

- **The City must allocate more money to electrify all informal settlements for the safety of residents, especially women and children**

The safety of residents, especially women and children, is affected when residents use communal services at night. It is therefore disappointing that the budget allocation for the project "Electrification of various informal settlements" (see page 8) has not increased. The budget also doesn't provide any information on the settlements which are going to benefit from this project

- **The City must prioritise budgeting for interim basic services like water tanks and chemical toilets, over long-term upgrading plans**

Upgrading projects are very important but interim solutions are essential to ensure access to basic services while communities wait to be upgraded. Many informal settlements have been in existence for over 30 years, some close to 40 years. And residents have been promised for more than a decade that their communities will be upgraded, but with no or little improvement in services. But the budget clearly shows that interim basic services solutions for informal settlements are not prioritised (see page 8). Further, there is not enough transparency regarding upgrading projects. This makes it difficult for communities to know if there is availability of land and if reblocking of their communities, for better access to services, is being planned and budgeted for.

### **Asivikelane assessment of informal settlements services in Johannesburg**

Planact and 1to1 are NGOs that have been working with informal settlements for over 40 years.

Recently, with the 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 in South Africa's major cities who face severe basic service shortages.

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.

## 2. Challenges experienced by Johannesburg informal settlement residents

### 2.1 Water challenges

In April 2022, 34% of residents said that they did not have enough water. Some residents reported that they do not have access to taps at all. Some of those with communal taps said that there are not enough taps and that some of the taps were broken. Residents who rely on water tanks for water reported that there are not enough tanks and that tanks are also not filled often enough.

### 2.2 Sanitation challenges

Some residents still do not have access to toilets and have to rely on self-dug pit toilets. Residents who use chemical toilets said that there are not enough toilets and that some of them are broken. Residents who use Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) toilets also said that some of their toilets are broken. In April 2022, about 37% of residents said that their toilets had not been cleaned or drained in the previous 7 days.

### 2.3 Refuse collection challenges

In April 2022, 12% of residents said that they did not have any access to waste removal services. Residents who do receive the service said that they do not receive refuse bags from the Metro, making it difficult to dispose of refuse in an orderly manner.

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

The lack of maintenance and repairs is a major challenge in the Metro’s informal settlements, with residents continuously reporting that their taps, toilets or water tanks are not fixed when they break. In March 2022, about 23% of residents said that when a tap or toilet breaks, it is never fixed. Another 38% 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 Johannesburg residents lodge a water and sanitation complaint

Fixed	%
A week or less	22,68%
A month or less	13,75%
1 to 3 months	24,16%
Never	22,68%
I don't know	16,73%

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

### 2.5 Challenges with public lighting and electricity provision

In August 2021, 87% of residents said that there is not enough public lighting in their settlements. The lack of public lighting poses a safety risk, especially to women and children, and reduces the accessibility of taps and toilets when it is dark. While there are streetlights in some settlements, residents reported that there are either not enough lights or that the lights are broken.

### 3. Evidence from the Metro’s 2022/23 draft budget

Mayor Mpho Phalatse’s 2022 State of the City Address expressed the Metro’s commitment to improving service delivery in informal settlements. We specifically look forward to the implementation of Johannesburg Water’s “Marginalized Areas Programme” which plans to address the basic water and sanitation needs of informal settlement residents. Our analysis below shows, however, that it is unlikely that the draft MTREF provides sufficient support to realize the mayor’s vision.

#### 3.1 Increased budget allocations for standpipes

According to the 2022/27 draft IDP, 18 084 households in the City do not have access to piped water within 200m of their dwelling, which is the minimum standard. This backlog has increased from 9 695 households in 2021. The IDP does not, however, say how many of these households are in informal settlements.

The City’s allocation for the provision of standpipes to informal settlements has increased by 77% to R88,5 million in 2022/23. We applaud this sizable increase, but it is unfortunate that the budget does not provide information on which settlements and how many households will benefit from this allocation or by when. As a result, we could not assess whether this allocation is sufficient to reduce and eradicate the water backlog. It is perhaps also of concern that the indicative budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 will revert to 2021/22 levels.

#### Improved capital budget for the delivery of standpipes

<b>2022/23 draft MTREF</b>				
<b>Project name</b>	<b>Budget 2021/22</b>	<b>Draft Budget 2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
Basic water service: New basic water and sewer services	R50 million	R88,5 million	R50 million	R50 million

\*Source: Draft 2022/23 – 2024/25 medium term budget and 2021-22 Asiviklane Budget analysis.

Johannesburg Water uses water tanks to provide what it calls a ‘nominal’ service to informal settlement households without access to piped water. The draft 2022/23 budget does not, however, provide an allocation for the provision and maintenance of these tanks or the filling up of these tanks.<sup>1</sup> This is of concern because many informal settlement residents who rely on these tanks have reported to Asiviklane that they do not have enough water.

#### 3.2 No specific budget allocations for the provision of sanitation

According to Johannesburg Water’s 2021 Business Plan, the minimum service level for sanitation in informal settlements is the provision of Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) toilets, waterborne toilets and ablution blocks.<sup>2</sup> According to the draft 2022/23 budget, the Metro plans to provide a minimum level of sanitation to 2 252 informal settlement households by end of 2022/23 financial year.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately no budget allocation is given for this, and the budget also does not indicate which settlements are going to benefit.

The nominal level of service is defined as communal chemical toilets. According to the 2022/23 IDP, Johannesburg Water aims to provide 1 chemical toilet per 7 households. The IDP also states that these toilets

<sup>1</sup> , [https://www.joburg.org.za/documents\\_/Documents/2022-23-2024-25%20Draft%20Medium%20Term%20Budget/BUDGET%20BOOK%202022-23.pdf](https://www.joburg.org.za/documents_/Documents/2022-23-2024-25%20Draft%20Medium%20Term%20Budget/BUDGET%20BOOK%202022-23.pdf), page 84

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.joburg.org.za/documents\\_/Documents/Entities%20Business%20Plans/Annexure\\_A2\\_2021-21\\_JWater%20final%20%20Draft%20Business%20Plan-%2019%20March.pdf](https://www.joburg.org.za/documents_/Documents/Entities%20Business%20Plans/Annexure_A2_2021-21_JWater%20final%20%20Draft%20Business%20Plan-%2019%20March.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.joburg.org.za/documents\\_/Documents/2022-23-2024-25%20Draft%20Medium%20Term%20Budget/BUDGET%20BOOK%202022-23.pdf](https://www.joburg.org.za/documents_/Documents/2022-23-2024-25%20Draft%20Medium%20Term%20Budget/BUDGET%20BOOK%202022-23.pdf), page 84

will be serviced three times a week, a welcome improvement on the current practice of twice a week. Again, it is unfortunate that no budget allocation is given for the provision of chemical toilets.

### 3.3 No budget allocations for informal settlement repairs and maintenance

As indicated above, the timely repair and maintenance of informal settlement taps and toilets is probably the biggest service delivery challenge in informal settlements.

According to the National Treasury benchmark,<sup>4</sup> municipalities should spend 8% of the carrying value of their Property, Plants and Equipment (PPE) on maintenance and repairs. Joburg’s planned Repairs and Maintenance as a % of PPE ratio will be 5.2% in 2022/23. This is a slight increase of 0.6% from the previous year, but still well short of the 8% target.

#### ***Increase in the repairs and maintenance as a percentage of PPE ratio***

	<b><i>Estimate 2021/22</i></b>	<b><i>Adjusted budget 2021/22</i></b>	<b><i>Draft budget 2022/23</i></b>	<b><i>Draft budget 2023/24</i></b>	<b><i>Draft budget 2024/25</i></b>
Percentage	4.6%	4.6%	5.2%	5.2%	5.3%

\*Sources: Draft 2021/22 – 2023/24 medium term budget and draft 2022/23 – 2024/25 medium term budget.

The total repairs and maintenance budget has also increased, from R4,2 billion in 2021/22 to R4,3 billion in 2022/23. Although the budget for the “Sanitation Infrastructure” asset class has increased significantly, it is not clear how much (if any) of this budget will be allocated for repairs and maintenance in informal settlements. It is of great concern that the repairs and maintenance budget for the “Water Supply Infrastructure” asset class is set to decrease in 2022/23. The repairs and maintenance budget for “Solid Waste Infrastructure” will also decline in real terms, which may also compromise waste collection services in Johannesburg.

#### ***Repairs and maintenance budget per asset class***

<b>Description</b>	<b>Adjusted budget</b>		<b>Draft budget</b>	
	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
Roads Infrastructure	R836.6 million	R918.5 million	R961.7 million	R1 billion
Electrical Infrastructure	R1.2 billion	R1.4 billion	R1.4 billion	R1.5 billion
Water Supply Infrastructure	R843.9 million	R787 million	R828.7 million	R876.3 million
Sanitation Infrastructure	R207.8 million	R603.5 million	R633.3 million	R665.8 million
Solid Waste Infrastructure	R519 000	R519 000	R547 000	R578 000
Information and Communication Infrastructure	R114 million	R114 million	R120.1 million	R126.8 million
Community Facilities	R78.5 million	R79.1 million	R82.7 million	R86.6 million
Sport and Recreation Facilities	R171.5 million	R171.6 million	R180.2 million	R189.2 million
Heritage Assets	R1.3 million	R1.2 million	R1.3 million	R1.4 million

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

Investment properties	R125 million	R125.1 million	R131.3 million	R137.7 million
Other Assets	R126.8 million	R127.3 million	R132.9 million	R138.9 million
Intangible Assets	R21.4 million	R21.4 million	R22.4 million	R23.4 million
Computer Equipment	R2.3 million	R2.3 million	R2.4 million	R2.5 million
Furniture and Office Equipment	R7.4 million	R21.1 million	R22.1 million	R23.2 million
Machinery and Equipment	R10.2 million	R10.4 million	R10.9 million	R11.4 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>R4.2 billion</b>	<b>R4.3 billion</b>	<b>R4.6 billion</b>	<b>R4.8 billion</b>

\*Sources: Draft 2022/23 – 2024/25 medium term budget.

The budget also shows that Johannesburg Water has a separate project called “Operational capital: Operations and Maintenance”. The 2022/23 budget allocation for this project has decreased by almost R20 million from 2021/22.

#### ***Decrease in Joburg Water’s Operations and maintenance budget***

<b><i>Project</i></b>	<b><i>Draft budget 2021/22</i></b>	<b><i>Estimate 2022/23</i></b>	<b><i>Draft budget 2022/23</i></b>	<b><i>Draft budget 2023/24</i></b>	<b><i>Draft budget 2024/25</i></b>
Operational capital: Operations and Maintenance	R66 million	R47 million	R46 million	R110 million	R60 million

\*Sources: Draft 2021/22 – 2023/24 medium term budget and draft 2022/23 – 2024/25 medium term budget.

It is of concern that the budget does not provide any information on how much money has been set aside specifically for the maintenance and repairs of taps, toilets and water tanks in informal settlements. It is of further concern that the budget does not show if any share of Johannesburg Water’s reduced operations and maintenance budget has been ringfenced for informal settlements.

#### ***3.4 Dedicate more funds for waste bulk containers***

According to the draft IDP, 281 900 households do not receive a weekly refuse collection service. The IDP does not, however, indicate how many of these households live in informal settlements.

#### ***Pikitup’s Capital Budget***

<b><i>Medium term capital budget</i></b>	<b><i>Budget 2021/22</i></b>	<b><i>Draft Budget 2022/23</i></b>	<b><i>Draft Budget 2023/24</i></b>	<b><i>Draft Budget 2024/25</i></b>
<b><i>Pikitup total</i></b>	R146 million	R149 million	R165 million	R153 million
<b><i>Waste Bulk Containers</i></b>	R2 million	R1 million	-	R2 million
<b><i>Share of waste bulk containers in Pikitup’s total budget</i></b>	1.4%	0.7%	-	1.3%

\*Source: Draft Medium-Term Budget 2022/23-2024/25 and 2021-22 Asivikela Budget analysis.

Despite the slight increase in Pikitup’s budget over the medium term, there was no increase in the allocation for waste bulk containers between 2021/22 and 2022/23. We do not know how much of this allocation will benefit informal settlements and no other amounts have been allocated for informal settlement refuse

removal. The lack of information makes it impossible to see how the IDP target will be met, nor how the mayoral commitment of guaranteeing that informal settlement residents have access to weekly waste collection services will be ensured.<sup>5</sup>

### 3.5 Budget allocations for informal settlement upgrading

According to Mayor Phalatse, the City aims to upgrade 10 informal settlements in 2022/23. This will include providing permanent municipal services such as “bulk connections, water services, sanitation solutions, public lighting, and roads storm water”.<sup>6</sup> The mayor also emphasised that the City’s Sites and Services Programme will be prioritised. Although these programmes promise to improve the access of informal settlement residents to basic services, their implementation is often too slow to provide short or even medium-term relief to informal settlements. Further, the 2022/23 budget documents show that when compared to the previous year’s allocations, the “formalisation of informal settlements” project received a *smaller* share of the total capital budget for housing, while the allocation for the “site and services” project remained the same. The reduced and unchanged budget allocations do not support the mayor’s wish that service delivery through longer term upgrading projects must be prioritised.

#### **Informal settlement upgrading projects in the Department of Housing’s capital budget.**

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Budget 2021/22</b>	<b>Draft Budget 2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
<b>Formalisation of informal settlements</b>	R446 million	R396 million	R465 million	R500 million
<b>Share of formalisation project in the total capital budget for housing</b>	40.5%	36%	42.3%	45.5%
<b>Site and services: Formalisation of informal settlements across the City</b>	R10 million	R10 million	R25 million	R50 million
<b>Total capital budget for housing</b>	R1,1 billion	R1 billion	R1,1 billion	R1,3 billion

\*Source: Draft Medium Term Budget 2022/23-2024/25; Asiviklane Budget analysis 2021/22

### 3.6 The City must allocate more funds for electricity provision

As mentioned earlier, about 87% of residents participating in Asiviklane said that there is not enough public lighting in their settlement.

The budget includes a project for the “Electrification of various informal settlements”. It is not clear exactly what this project provides – electricity connections to individual stands or settlement-wide public lighting (street lights or high mast lights)? The budget also does not indicate which settlements will benefit from this project. It is disappointing that no additional funds have been allocated to this project.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.joburg.org.za/documents/\\_Documents/2022-27%20Draft%20IDP/2022-27%20Draft%20Integrated%20Development%20Plan.pdf](https://www.joburg.org.za/documents/_Documents/2022-27%20Draft%20IDP/2022-27%20Draft%20Integrated%20Development%20Plan.pdf), page 214.

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.joburg.org.za/media/\\_Newsroom/Pages/2022%20News%20Articles/April/Mayor-Phalatse-delivers- maiden-State-of-the-City-Address.aspx](https://www.joburg.org.za/media/_Newsroom/Pages/2022%20News%20Articles/April/Mayor-Phalatse-delivers- maiden-State-of-the-City-Address.aspx), page 9.

**Electrification of informal settlements**

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Budget 2021/22</b>	<b>Draft Budget 2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
<b>Electrification of various informal settlements - City Wide</b>	R200 million	R200 million	R200 million	R200 million

\*Sources: Draft 2021/26 IDP and draft 2022/27 IDP.