Community engagement with Knysna municipality begins to yield progress

OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, ASIVIKELANE has initiated a series of engagements with Knysna municipality about basic services. This has been fruitful but not always easy – the municipality has had 5 acting municipal managers in 5 months, which has presented a challenge. But there are signs that our consistent engagement is yielding progress. Since the start of the campaign, water and sanitation access has improved noticeably with residents in 8 settlements reporting substantial improvements.

While many service delivery problems still remain, residents are encouraged by these improvements. As a result, participation in Asivikelane Knysna has more than doubled since April, with 40 informal settlements participating this month.

GOOD NEWS

- In Karatara, 22 new chemical toilets were provided since the start of June 2022
- In Onderste Gaatjie, Lankgewag and Pine valley electricity was provided to 39 households
- In Busy Corner, a tap was installed
- In Greenfields, toilets were drained and toilet paper rolls was provided
- Residents in Corona Valley received a chemical toilet
- In Bongani Valley, the municipality cut the grass and cleaned the whole area

HOT SPOTS

- Residents from Dam se Bos, Welynsdorp and Barrington have no water
- Residents from Nkandla Greenfield Extension, Rhobololo, Corona Valley and Sakhumzamo do not have enough water
- Residents from New Rest, Love Corner, Bongani Valley and in Makhaphela have indicated that they do not have any toilets
- Only 62% of residents say their waste was collected in the last 7 days

CHANGES IN SERVICES IN KNYSNA INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS SINCE APRIL, based on resident responses to Asivikelane Western Cape

- There was not enough water in the last 7 days: 14% April 2022 (AWC#1) 22% July 2022 (AWC#4)
- There are no toilets: 10% April 2022 (AWC#1) 26% July 2022 (AWC#4)
- Municipality never fixes broken taps and toilets: 20% April 2022 (AWC#1) 23% July 2022 (AWC#4)

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Asivikelane Western Cape is a partnership between IBP South Africa and Development Action Group (DAG).