



Summary of evidence: Waste collection in Informal Settlements in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality
July 2023

Number of partner organisations	Total number of settlements	Total number of residents	Male	Female	% of female participants
2	11	254	84	170	67%

Background

Residents in informal settlements in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality struggle significantly with uncollected waste, which impacts adversely on their environment and their quality of life. Almost all residents surveyed by Asivikelane in March wanted the Metro to budget more money for refuse collection, indicating that this is a huge need.

Despite the importance of waste removal, the Metro does not refer specifically to informal settlements in its Waste Management Bylaw. It also does not specify in its budget how much it has set aside for refuse removal in informal settlements, raising questions as to whether there is a dedicated budget for this basic service.

While the Metro also does not specify what level of service it aims to provide to informal settlements in its draft Integrated Waste Management Plan (2022-2026), there is an indication under Goal 2 of the Plan that the Metro aims to develop a model to provide waste removal in rural and unserved areas. This suggests that they are thinking about delivering waste collection services to these areas.

In Mangaung informal settlements where residents were surveyed, evidence collected by Asivikelane indicates that there is no service. An approach to informal settlement waste collection should therefore be included in this model.

As there is no information publicly available to indicate a model has been developed yet, we urge the Metro to consider what residents think would improve waste collection in their settlements when developing a model.

Detailed findings:

In June 2023 (Asivikelane #37), residents in informal settlements in Mangaung were asked about access to waste removal and how uncollected waste impacts their environment and quality of life. They were also asked what they would like to see improve regarding waste removal. This included the number of plastic bags they wanted to receive and the frequency of waste removal per week.

Not a single surveyed resident said their waste had been removed in the past seven days, indicating that waste collection is a major challenge in Mangaung Residents believe this can improve if the Metro takes a few practical steps.

Half of all residents surveyed said they wanted dumping sites cleaned at least once a week, while 43% of residents wanted their refuse collected from their homes. Residents also wanted the metro to provide refuse bags, communal skips or refuse containers, as well as designated dumping sites (see Table 1).

Table 1: What should the metro do to improve waste collection?

What should metro do to improve waste collection?	Number of residents	% of residents
Clean dumping sites at least once a week	129	51%
Collect refuse from my home once a week	108	43%
Provide refuse bags every week	105	41%
Provide communal skips or refuse containers	61	24%
Provide designated dumping sites within 5 minutes walking distance from my home	26	10%
Provide communal bins close to communal taps and toilets	16	6%
Total residents	254	

Residents also told Asivikelane how many refuse bags they need the Metro to provide per week. About 65% of residents indicated that they needed three or more bags per week.

Table 2: How many refuse bags needed per week:

Number of bags	Number of residents	%
1	35	13.78%
2	54	21.26%
3	146	57.48%
more than 3	19	7.48%
Total	254	100.00%

We urge the Metro to consider these proposals as the impact of having no waste collection is dire.

When asked in June, the biggest concern for residents was that uncollected waste was dangerous as children could play in or near it. The data also illustrates that uncollected

waste in some cases results in the blocking of toilets and drains, which then increases the need for repairs and maintenance for which the Metro is also responsible.

Table 3: Impact of uncollected waste

Health impact of uncollected waste (ranked)	Number of residents	% of residents
It is dangerous because children might play in or near it and get hurt	111	43.70%
Uncollected waste creates a bad smell	80	31.50%
It makes the settlement dirty	77	30.31%
It leads to the blockage of toilets	61	24.02%
It attracts rats, mice and mosquitoes	57	22.44%
It is a health risk because waste pollutes drinking water	44	17.32%
It leads to the blockage of drains	36	14.17%