

ASIVIKELANE WESTERN CAPE is a partnership between the Development Action Group, the Western Cape Government and IBP South Africa. ASIVIKELANE WESTERN CAPE will expand the Asivikelane campaign to informal settlements in all municipalities in the province.

The Sanitation Challenge

We are grateful to report many green lights for water and refuse removal, but access to sanitation is currently the biggest challenge in province's informal settlements.

While we report a few challenges for water and waste collection, most municipalities' traffic lights are green or almost green for these services. This is encouraging. But the same is not true for sanitation. Residents struggle with insufficient numbers of toilets, irregular cleaning of communal toilets and blocked sewer lines. As a result, they face numerous health and safety risks. We ask that municipalities respond to these concerns with a sense of urgency.



This month we add Bitou Municipality to the three municipalities that are already part of Asivikelane Western Cape. We will gradually incorporate all local municipalities in the province.

Left: Accessible, functional and well-maintained sanitation remains a challenge in informal settlements in the Western Cape. Photo: Asla Kamp (Witzenberg), May 2021.

DATA NOTES: **57 residents from 27 informal settlements** responded over the last week. Detailed results and comments from residents are available at www.asivikelane.org/western-cape-releases. Knysna and Mossel Bay's traffic lights for toilet cleaning/draining are greyed out because residents clean their own toilets.

IN YOUR INFORMAL SETTLEMENT OVER THE LAST 7 DAYS...

IN THE WESTERN CAPE



...WAS THERE ENOUGH WATER FOR ALL RESIDENTS?

- BITOU
- KNYSNA
- MOSSEL BAY
- WITZENBERG



...WERE THE TOILETS CLEANED/ DRAINED?

- BITOU
- KNYSNA
- MOSSEL BAY
- WITZENBERG



...WAS THE WASTE COLLECTED?

- BITOU
- KNYSNA
- MOSSEL BAY
- WITZENBERG

Respondents that said YES:

60% or less

61 – 75%

75 – 89%

90% or more

Water source and Water availability

- Residents in Zawa Zawa (**Bitou**) mentioned that when there was no water, a truck was available to serve water to the whole community.
- Taps in Die Gaaitjie (**Witzenberg**) are broken and residents have to go to another settlement to get water.

Toilet type and Toilet cleaning

- Residents in Walvis Street (**Mossel bay**) have no access to toilets and are forced to use the bush.
- In Tulbagh (**Witzenberg**) some residents reported that there are not enough toilets.
- All the residents in Die Gaaitjie (**Witzenberg**) reported that the municipality has stopped cleaning communal toilets
- Residents in Zawa Zawa (**Bitou**) indicated a horrible smell in the area because of sanitation drainage problems.

Waste collection

- Happy residents in Asla Kamp (**Witzenberg**) praised the municipality for coming to burn rubbish in a skip that was full. However, they reported that they were still waiting for plastic bags from the municipality.
- Residents in Bossiesgif (**Bitou**) reported that waste collectors only focus on the main street, and garbage from elsewhere in the settlement is not collected.

For more information contact: dag@dag.org.za Twitter: @DAG_activism Facebook: @developmentactiongroup Instagram: @developmentactiongroup website: www.dag.org.za Also nationally on social media: @Asivikelane