City of Johannesburg Rapid Budget Response

We are worried that the City of Johannesburg is not prioritising service delivery to the City’s informal settlements in its draft 2024/25 budget.

Sanitation

The operating budget of R54 million for "Ventilated Improved Toilets, Pour Flush Toilets and Ablution Blocks" has remained the same since 2022/23. We are concerned that this will not be enough to reduce the estimated sanitation backlog of 115,783 households. We ask the Metro to urgently publish Johannesburg Water’s draft 2024/25 business plan which, in the past, has helped us to understand its goals for sanitation and water services.

Water

It is of further concern that the Metro has only allocated R10 million for "Basic Water Services", the same as in its adjusted 2023/24 capital budget. The adjusted budget decreased the original 2023/24 allocation by R30 million. Please explain why there is a different capital allocation of R50 million in the City’s draft IDP for the provision of communal standpipes under the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme indicators.

Repairs and maintenance

The Metro’s decision to cut its repairs and maintenance budget by 2.5% is concerning, especially since it has not set aside any dedicated funds for informal settlement repairs and maintenance. Broken taps and toilets are a big challenge in these settlements. Without dedicated funding, we are worried that informal settlements will be neglected in favour of formal areas, especially with a smaller overall budget.