

## Provision of sanitation in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality: A detailed summary of available water and sanitation services and what residents require for interim sanitation

**November 2024**

### Introduction

In April 2024, the Asivikelane initiative<sup>1</sup> in Mangaung surveyed 84 residents<sup>2</sup> living in six informal settlements in Bloemfontein Mangaung about their access to sanitation and water. Residents were also asked would need from the Metro if they had to use interim sanitation pending the installation of bulk infrastructure and full flush toilets.

Understanding what residents would need to feel comfortable using shared toilets is crucial for the Metro to provide suitable sanitation. Surprisingly, only five residents reported being consulted by the government about sanitation in the past. This summary aims to address this lack of consultation:

#### **Residents recommended that interim sanitation should meet the following requirements:**

- A maximum of four households sharing one toilet
- Communal toilets separated by gender
- Communal toilets located no further than 10 meters from households using them
- Communal toilets cleaned by the municipality at least twice a week
- Chemical toilets should be drained at least twice a week

*Residents were canvassed in the following settlements:*

<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Ward Number</b>
Saliva	6
Freedom Square	8
Caleb Motshabi	10
Khayelitsha	17
Matlharantlheng	46
Phase 9	46

---

<sup>1</sup> In March 2020, the International Budget Partnership South Africa (IBP South Africa) and its civil society partner organisations launched the Asivikelane Initiative. This initiative gives a voice to informal settlement residents in South Africa's major cities who face severe basic service shortages. It supports informal settlement communities to monitor the delivery of water, sanitation, and refuse collection services, and to engage with their municipality about these services. IBP South Africa and St James Apostolic Faith Mission are the Asivikelane partners in Mangaung.  
<https://asivikelane.org/about/>

<sup>2</sup> 65% of surveyed residents were female. An average of 4 people live in each household that participated in the Asivikelane data collection. 43% of residents surveyed were between the ages of 35 and 64, while 39% were between the ages of 25 and 34.

## Summary

### 1. Access to sanitation in Mangaung's informal settlements

The evidence collected in April 2024 is consistent with multiple rounds of data collected by Asivikelane over the previous two years. None of the residents had access to municipally provided toilets. 89% used a self-dug pit toilet, while 11% of residents did not have access to a toilet at all.

Settlement	Toilet type
Saliva	No toilet and self-dug pit toilet <sup>3</sup>
Freedom Square	Self-dug pit toilet
Caleb Motshabi	No toilet and self-dug pit toilet
Khayelitsha	No toilet and self-dug pit toilet
Matlharantlheng	No toilet and self-dug pit toilet
Phase 9	No toilet and self-dug pit toilet

Residents were also surveyed about the number of people sharing their self-dug pit toilet. 70% shared their self-dug pit toilet with five or more people.

How many people share the toilet?	Responses	Percentage
1	1	1%
2	7	9%
3	8	11%
4	6	8%
5	17	23%
6	13	17%
7	6	8%
8	7	9%
9	2	3%
10 or more	8	10%

Residents also reported that their self-dug pit toilets were never drained by the municipality. In the absence of a desludging service, when pits fill up, they have to dig new ones. This illustrates an urgent need for desludging services to empty self-dug pit toilets in the Metro pending the provision of interim sanitation.

### 2. Access to water

Of the residents surveyed, 82% of residents use a communal tap, while 8% have no water (those with no access to a water source resided in Khayelitsha and Phase 9), and 7% of had their own tap. While the majority of residents have access to a water source and had enough water, 19% said they did not have enough water in the 7 days prior to being canvassed.

Was there enough water for everyone in your settlement in the last 7 days?	Responses	Percentage
yes	62	74%
no	16	19%
I don't know	6	7%

<sup>3</sup> Residents either had no toilet or used a self-dug pit toilet.

Residents that did not have enough water cited broken communal taps in their settlements as the primary cause.

### 3. Interim sanitation solutions – what residents need

Considering the dire need for sanitation, the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality is considering the provision of interim sanitation solutions to ensure access to adequate sanitation in the short term.

Asiviklane asked residents what they needed to feel comfortable using communal interim sanitation while the Metro plans and budgets for flushing toilets in all informal settlements. Interim sanitation solutions provided by most metro municipalities are chemical toilets, communal flush toilets, and ventilated improved pit (VIP) toilets. In most cases, these facilities are shared by more than one household.

### 4. Sharing with others

75% of residents were willing to share communal toilets with other households, while 25% of residents said they preferred not to share their toilet. Of the residents willing to use communal toilets, the majority (51%) preferred sharing with 2 or 3 other households.

Number of other households you would share your toilet with	Number of residents	% of share
0	15	25%
2	13	21%
3	18	30%
4	2	3%
5	8	13%
6	3	5%
10	2	3%
Total	61	100%

### 5. Men and women should have separate toilets

94% of residents would like communal toilets grouped by gender, with separate toilets for women and men. All the residents who said toilets should not be grouped by gender were against using communal toilets altogether.

### 6. How far should a communal toilet be from my house?

Most residents (95%) want a communal toilets located within 10 meters of their houses due to safety concerns.

How far am I comfortable to walk to a communal toilet	Number of residents	%
10 meters	80	95%
11-50 meters	2	2%
I don't know	2	2%
TOTAL	84	100%

### 7. Cleaning and draining of communal toilets

The majority of residents want the Metro to clean communal toilets a minimum of twice a week, and drain chemical toilets at least twice (35%) or more (30%) a week.

<b>How many times should the municipality clean a communal toilet per week?</b>	<b>Number of residents</b>	<b>% of share</b>
0	3	4%
1	9	12%
2	29	38%
3	15	20%
4	7	9%
5	9	12%
6	1	1%
7	3	4%
Total	76	100%

### 8. Residents would fix and clean their own toilets if they did not have to share

All surveyed residents stated they would take responsibility for repairing, maintaining and cleaning municipally provided toilet if they did not have to share them with other households.