AFSEE Conversation: “Lockdown is a luxury”

Monitoring informal settlement basic service needs during Covid-19: *Experience from South Africa*

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Informal settlements in South Africa

- 14% of population lives in informal settlements
- 2.9 – 3.6m people
- 1.1 – 1.4m households
- Estimated 2,700 informal settlements in the country
- Most of these located in 8 major cities

Lockdown & social distancing an almost impossible ask because...

- Extreme density and over-crowding
- Shacks are not safe, adequate shelter
- Toilets are shared and often too few
- Toilets are cleaned irregularly or not at all
- Communal taps used by many
- Water supply can be intermittent
- Stocking up on food & supplies is not an option due to poverty & high unemployment

Source: Western Cape Department of Human Settlements, 2016
Thabo Mbeki Informal Settlement
(Cape Town, 2016)

Source: Western Cape Department of Human Settlements, 2016
Before Covid-19...
IBPSA & partners:
- CORC/SASDI
- Planact
- Afesis-Corplan
supported community-based monitoring and building collective agency through social audits & advocacy in metros
DO YOU USE SHARED TAPS AND TOILETS IN AN INFORMAL SETTLEMENT?

TO AVOID GETTING THE CORONAVIRUS:

1. Don’t touch the tap, toilet or door handle with your bare hands.
2. Hold the tap, door handle or toilet lid with newspaper.
3. You can also use your foot or shoulder to open the toilet door and lift the lid.
4. Stand at least 6 steps away from other people when you queue for a toilet or tap.
5. After using the toilet or tap – do not touch your face, eyes, nose or mouth until you wash your hands with soap and water.
6. Clean the toilet or tap with 1 litre of water mixed with 4 teaspoons of Jik’/bleach (but keep this bleach mixture away from children).

WASH FOR 20 SECONDS

#SOCIALAUDITS4SERVICES
Asivikelane provides a link between municipal governments and informal settlement residents faced with severe water, sanitation and refuse removal shortages during the Covid-19 crisis. This initiative is a joint effort of seven local organizations, up from four, with the recent arrival of Grassroot, the Development Action Group and the Social Justice Coalition. This growing network enables us to reach 133 informal settlements in five metropolitan municipalities and five smaller towns.

Over the last week, 335 informal settlement residents from 133 informal settlements submitted responses. This week we also added 5 non-metro municipalities to the 5 metros: uMunduzi, Enalahleni, Mossel Bay, Tulbagh and Knymsa. Detailed results are available at: [www.internationalbudget.org/covid-monitoring/](http://www.internationalbudget.org/covid-monitoring/)

**TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2020**

**IS THERE CLEAN WATER AVAILABLE IN YOUR SETTLEMENT?**

- JOHANNESBURG
- EKURHULENI
- CAPE TOWN
- BUFFALO CITY
- ETHEKWINI
- NON-METROS

**WERE THE TOILETS CLEANED IN THE LAST 7 DAYS?**

- JOHANNESBURG
- EKURHULENI
- CAPE TOWN
- BUFFALO CITY
- ETHEKWINI
- NON-METROS

**WAS WASTE COLLECTED IN YOUR SETTLEMENT IN THE LAST 7 DAYS?**

- JOHANNESBURG
- EKURHULENI
- CAPE TOWN
- BUFFALO CITY
- ETHEKWINI
- NON-METROS

**GREEN: 90% or more respondents said yes**

**ORANGE: Between 60% and 90% of respondents said yes**

**RED: 60% or fewer respondents said yes**

**HOTSPOTS**

- The cleaning of communal toilets remains at crisis proportions and if left unaddressed could contribute significantly to the spread of the virus in metro and non-metro informal settlements.
- In some settlements residents report that toilets have not been cleaned since the start of the lockdown or even further back.
- In Cape Town, eThekwini, Buffalo City and Johannesburg the repair of broken toilets and insufficient numbers of toilets is also a problem.
- Residents often clean toilets themselves, but without disinfectant and protective gear this poses a significant infection risk.
- Toilet cleaning is an even larger problem in smaller towns, coupled with the fact that some residents don’t have access to municipal sanitation at all.

**GOOD NEWS!**

- eThekwini, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni are now responding to the problems that residents reported through Asivikelane.
- In Cape Town, persistent water shortages in Imizamo Yethu have been resolved.
- In eThekwini taps were installed at Mandeni that was previously cut off water by the lockdown.
- In Mountain View in Johannesburg broken taps and water pressure issues were addressed.
- In Buffalo City broken taps and toilets were fixed in Duncan Village and Scenery Park.
- In Ekurhuleni, Barcelona residents received JoJo tanks.
- In Westside Park and Kliptown Block in Johannesburg more toilets were provided and toilets are being cleaned more regularly.
Source documents

