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The National Upgrading Support Programme is a programme of the National Department of Human Settlements

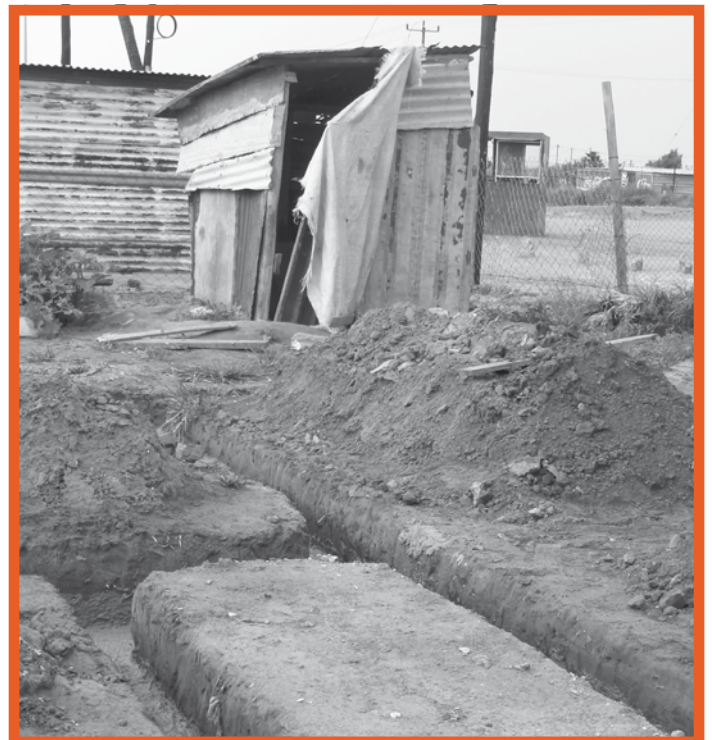
## What is the National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP)?

One of the South African Government's greatest challenges stems from the fact that informal settlements continue to grow faster than the rate of low-income housing delivery. The need, therefore, for in-situ informal settlement upgrade is paramount. National Development Outcome 8 mandates an ambitious target of improving the quality of life of 400 000 households by 2014 by upgrading informal settlements in well-located areas. The National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP) was created by the National Department of Human Settlements (NDHS) to provide assistance to provinces and municipalities in their efforts to upgrade informal settlements. The HDA is an important partner in providing technical support for upgrading under the coordination of the NUSP.

The Upgrading Informal Settlements Programme (UISP) and Urban Settlements Development Grant (USDG) administered by the NDHS, are the primary policy and grant instrument used to meet national targets. Municipalities are required to act as developers for the UISP and the NUSP provides support, in partnership with the province and the NDHS, to help them do so effectively.

The three pillars of the UISP are basic services (including water and sanitation), security of tenure and community empowerment. Most municipalities have the capacity to provide basic services but fewer have looked to alternative means of security of tenure other than the orthodox approach of freehold. Fewer still effectively undertake community empowerment as required by the National Housing Code. On this third issue the NUSP provides technical assistance for municipalities to undertake planning in conjunction with communities. It also has a capacity building programme which aims to assist municipal and provincial officials to understand and meet the range of needs for informal settlement upgrade. The NUSP also provides support to municipalities in project development and to implement more integrated planning.

Through workshops, seminars and information sharing across the country NUSP is helping to improve the knowledge base around informal settlement upgrade. This includes highlighting of best practices, creating networks of practitioners and undertaking research. NUSP will support 49 priority municipalities with their informal settlement upgrading plans. Ultimately, the goal of the NUSP is to strengthen the capacity of all institutions involved in the upgrade of informal settlements which, in turn, will help meet the Outcome 8 target of assisting 400,000 households by 2014.



THE NATIONAL UPGRADING SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The NUSP was established to provide assistance to provinces and municipalities in their efforts to upgrade informal settlements.



## eThekweni responds to basic needs of **informal settlement dwellers**

The Metropolitan Municipality of eThekweni in KwaZulu-Natal deserves credit for its implementation of a successful and large scale mass housing development programme. However, not all settlements can be provided with full services and low income housing in the short term due to funding and other constraints. Approximately a quarter of eThekweni's total population of 3.5 million reside in urban and peri-urban informal settlements, most of which are located on land which is both difficult and costly to develop due to constraints such as steep slopes, unstable soils and high land costs.

eThekweni is responding to a range of challenges faced by informal settlements by implementing a pro-active and broad based programme aimed at providing basic interim services to 166 prioritised settlements. Such needs include access to adequate sanitation, clean energy, roads and measures to reduce the risk of shack fires. These prioritised settlements are those which are on the Municipality's housing plan, but which cannot be provided with full services and low income housing in the short-term. Settlements destined for eventual relocation are not included.

The following are the main services and responses being provided by the interim programme:

- **Communal ablution blocks:** Basic sanitation is provided by means of converted containers which are plumbed into water and sewer mains. Each block consists of a separate unit for males and females which provide toilets, showers, hand-basins and wash-troughs. Lighting is by means of solar power. The norm is to provide at least one block for every 75 households.
- **A basic road network and footpath:** A prioritised road infrastructure network and associated storm-water controls is being provided. This consists of main transportation routes as well as some smaller access ways and pedestrian footpaths.
- **Electricity connections:** Where possible, shacks are being connected to the main electrical grid on a pre-paid basis.

- **Standpipes:** Whilst standpipes have already been provided historically in most settlements, where standpipes are not available, they are being provided. The norm is to provide a standpipe within a 200m of every dwelling.
- **Key social facilities:** Plans are currently being developed to inform the more effective provision of key social facilities such as fire and police stations, clinics, schools, sports-fields and community halls.
- **Sustainable livelihoods:** A process of participative livelihoods engagement is being planned. The sustainable livelihoods approach strives to build stronger community responsibility and 'self-help' as well as to facilitate a better relationship between the urban poor and the Municipality.

Informal settlements have been grouped together into logical 'clusters' or precincts in order to enable more effective and sustainable urban planning. Subcontractors have been procured from within the eThekweni region via a transparent process. Local labour is being utilised as well as locally produced materials wherever possible. Efforts are being made by eThekweni to identify opportunities for community based maintenance of interim infrastructure (e.g. clearing of storm-water culverts).

It is anticipated that, in some settlements, the construction of interim services (especially roads and footpaths) will necessitate some relocations. Households to be moved ('relocatees') will be provided with R2,500 worth of building materials or else a voucher which can be used for the purchase of such materials in order to assist them in rebuilding their informal house at another locality.

eThekweni's Basic Services Programme reflects a national trend in human settlements to provide more for the many rather than more for the few.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- NUSP provincial forum meetings:  
Northern Cape 27 August  
Western Cape 16 October
- Limpopo capacity building roll-out starts in September



human settlements

Department:  
Human Settlements  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CONTACT US

■ NUSP [www.steve@iod-sa.com](mailto:www.steve@iod-sa.com) ■ HDA 011 544 1000 ■ NDHS 0800 701701