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

Introduction to Informal Settlement Upgrading course piloted

The first pilot NUSP Introduction to Informal Settlement Upgrading course entitled 'The Mandate' took place from 8 to 11 November last year. The aim of the module is to develop a greater understanding of informal settlement upgrading, the importance of engaging with the communities, and valuing and protecting social assets, livelihoods and the rights of the poor.

The Ekurhuleni Metro Human Settlements department provided the participants for the pilot project. The participants included a core of 15 people, all of them officials from the Ekurhuleni Metro – eight housing officials, one superintendent, three town planners, one water engineer and one clinic worker.

The municipality also showed their support by 'walking the talk' and coming out to observe the training. Neville Chainee opened the pilot course for us, Petal Thring observed a number of sessions on different days and Bongani Molefe visited on Day 1 and come back on Day 4 to present the EMM Upgrade Programme to the group. This visible support builds the participants' commitment to the training.

The course went well – it was highly participative and engaging and the participants rated the various elements highly on the quantitative evaluation.

Informal settlements upgrade boost for mining towns

The National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP) is being stepped up across six provinces in an attempt to spur economic development in a number of distressed mining towns.

A total of 46 informal settlements have been targeted for development as part of the Presidential Intervention into National Mining Towns, which was announced by President Jacob Zuma in his State of the Nation address in 2014.

A key thrust of the distressed mining towns intervention is to use the development of sustainable human settlements to stimulate local economic growth, and in so doing to improve socio-economic conditions for mining communities and labour-sending areas.

The Housing Development Agency (HDA) and the national Department of Human Settlements (NDHS) are partnering on the initiative, with NDHS is responsible for the development of integrated and sustainable human settlements in mining towns, providing decent living conditions for mineworkers, and contributing to the development trajectory of mining towns and labour-sending areas. The HDA provides programme management, and technical and capacity support.

The NUSP approach is based on the principle of "incremental upgrading" of informal settlements, with an emphasis on the provision of basic services, security of tenure, and the empowerment of communities.

Although each informal settlement is different, and presents different challenges, the broad objective is to work towards full infrastructure upgrading and top structure. This includes ensuring "full and conventional upgrading", where residents have housing, full services and formal tenure.



The NUSP approach

- Identify and verify project work in each informal settlement
- Prepare and package an implementation plan
- Coordinate upgrading initiatives
- Provide implementation support
- Ensure strategic planning

Throughout the process, the upgrade teams look at ways of promoting sustainability and integration, which includes looking at special needs responses (for example, HIV/AIDS, home-based care, orphans and vulnerable children), local economic development opportunities, support for livelihoods and informal enterprises, and the need for social facilities such as schools and clinics.

The prioritised municipalities

- North West: Rustenburg, Madibeng, Moses Kotane
- Free State: Matjhabeng, Moqhaka
- Limpopo: Greater Tubatse, Elias Motsoaledi, Lephalale, Fetakgomo
- Mpumalanga: Emalahleni, Steve Tshwete, Thaba Chewu
- Gauteng: Westonaria, Randfontein, Merafong

Incremental land tenure – the options

One of the most important aspects of informal settlements upgrading, especially incremental upgrading, is the issue of land tenure. Once communities have security of tenure (and this can take many forms), they are more willing to participate with government in the upgrading process, particularly with improvements to their own homes. Attaining various forms of secure tenure for residents of informal settlements is challenging and complicated and this is often exacerbated on tribal land and communal land.

Thando Madonsela, HDA's informal settlements upgrading manager, has been working with Lauren Royston from SERI/Development Works on a process to frame and package a document on incremental tenure options with an emphasis on informal settlements situated on tribal land and/or communal land.

The process started with three provinces that are largely rural in nature – Limpopo, North West and Northern Cape – but, at the request of NDHS/NUSP, the study has been expanded to KwaZulu-Natal, another province experiencing similar characteristics of land tenure issues in tribal authorities. Land administration in these contexts is under the authority of traditional or tribal authorities. The work in partnership with SERI/Development Works will focus on tenure security and aims to explore the specific challenges as well as possible recommendations for securing tenure in informal settlements situated on traditional authority land in communal areas.

A workshop – to present the preliminary findings and recommendations – was held on 27 January and attended by HDA staff, researchers, NGOs working in informal settlements and NUSP. The feedback from the workshop will assist with the next phase of the work – framing and packaging of four provincial workshops in Limpopo, North West, Northern Cape and KZN, where the findings and recommendations will be presented to broader provincial stakeholders as well as the relevant sector departments.

MTSF and the related informal settlements targets

Impact Indicator	Baseline	2019 Target
Number of Households living in adequate housing	1.2m households	An additional 745 000 households living in adequate housing through the subsidy and affordable housing segments. (Market numbers still to be determined)
Improved housing conditions for Households living in informal settlements	1.2 m households	750 000 households upgraded
Number of houses and housing opportunities in informal settlements, located in quality living environments:		
a) Number of existing Informal settlements assessed	a) 450 (NUSP) and analysis of Local Authorities: to be re-determined by September 2014	a) 2 200 informal settlements assessed
b) Number of households benefitting from informal settlements upgrading	b) 447 780 (cumulative since 2010, includes sites for new houses)	b) 750 000 households in informal settlements upgraded to Phase 2 of the Informal Settlements Upgrading Programme by 2019



human settlements

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