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

# Rustenburg, Northern Cape and Manguang get draft **informal settlement upgrading plans** – the highlights

In April and May this year the Housing Development Agency (HDA) support work has been focused on the roll-out of nine pilot projects in three provinces (see box). Participatory planning, regular project review meetings, community workshops and steering committee workshops were key to ensuring the teams remained focused, all stakeholders were kept informed, milestones were met and that the final plans are integrated and implementable.

- **Free State**
  - Mangaung Metro Municipality
- **North West**
  - Rustenburg Local Municipality and
- **Northern Cape**
  - Tsantsabane Local Municipality
  - Gamagara Local Municipality
  - Sol Plaatjie Local Municipality
  - Phokwane Local Municipality

project activities and milestones. The meetings were intended to build on the concept of the facilitated participatory planning process, and to ensure that there was involvement of the different departments in the municipality, i.e. housing, planning, infrastructure, IDP, LED. This was to ensure that the proposed upgrading plans are aligned to municipal priorities and that the concept of integration is realised. The community leadership, i.e. ward councillors also participated in the meetings. Six project review meetings

were held with Rustenburg, three with Northern Cape and three with Manguang.

## Project review meetings

The HDA, together with Rustenburg, Northern Cape and Manguang officials, coordinated project review meetings, which were attended by project managers, consultants and ward councillors. The meetings were held regularly during April and May, and focused on the day-to-day

## Steering committee workshops

Steering committee meetings took a workshop format and their



Community meeting – Northern Cape



Focus group – discussion on youth development

purpose was to review the main project milestones. The HDA held one steering committee meeting in each area before the projects were closed and presentations were made by the technical team and the social facilitation team.

<b>3 May 2013 Rustenburg Municipality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ RLM planning unit</li> <li>■ RLM technical and land administration unit</li> <li>■ HDA ISU team</li> <li>■ HDA land team</li> <li>■ DOH NUSP team</li> <li>■ HDA partners/SHIFT</li> </ul>
<b>7 May 2013 Mangaung Municipality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Housing and development planning</li> <li>■ HDA Free State and head office team (land and housing support teams)</li> <li>■ GIS representatives</li> <li>■ Town planning department</li> <li>■ Technical department</li> <li>■ Ward councillor</li> <li>■ DOH NUSP team</li> </ul>
<b>6 May 2013 Northern Cape Province</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provincial representatives</li> <li>■ Ward councillors and ward leaders</li> <li>■ Mayor from one of the municipalities</li> <li>■ Municipal officials responsible for planning, housing</li> <li>■ DOH NUSP team</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Gamagara</li> <li>■ Solplaatje</li> <li>■ Phokwane</li> <li>■ Tsantsabane</li> <li>■ Other NUSP municipalities</li> </ul>



Reviewing the upgrading plan – Mbeki Sun informal settlement

## Community workshops

The feedback from the steering committee workshops was incorporated by the consultants and the HDA project management team into the final concept, and in some instances, layout plans. The purpose of the community workshops was to provide final feedback on findings from the studies, as well as getting the views of the community on the proposed draft settlement upgrading plans. The workshops were coordinated by the HDA together with social facilitators and were facilitated by municipal officials supported by the ward councillors responsible for each area.

The end results of this two month process are draft settlement upgrading plans and interventions that have been developed for all nine projects. These outline the results of the technical field studies

(ie engineering, geotech, environment, planning status, tenure assessment) and programme phasing/incremental upgrading solutions, including:

- Proposed roll out plan with indicative time frames
- Draft layout plans where needed
- Proposed livelihood programmes and sustainability interventions for each settlements
- Results of the enumeration exercise
- Formalisation with focus on incremental upgrading

All the upgrading plans are in line with government requirements. The next step is to get the draft upgrading plans finalised and presented to the municipalities and provinces.

## What is participatory planning?

The HDA's approach to informal settlement upgrading is participatory with close involvement of the affected communities, as well as municipal and provincial officials. The community is involved from the beginning so that the Agency can understand the dynamics of each settlement and that the community can understand the technical assessment process and findings, and the upgrading options available for each settlement. Various consultations processes are undertaken to ensure that communities understand their development situation, participate in the generation of options and choices for development, and that information is provided in an accessible manner to improve decision-making. The social facilitation service provider and the technical team service provider work closely together on joint briefing sessions and joint project review meetings (with an average of two per month). The project review meetings are facilitated by the HDA and respective municipalities to ensure that there is coordination of activities and that the municipality is closely involved in the assignment.

Community consultation process activities include:

- Entry into the community via introduction meetings to the leadership
- Introduction of the project via public meetings
- Recruitment of field workers via training workshops
- Community views on upgrading via focus groups and public meetings
- Inputs into upgrading initiatives and livelihoods programmes via focus group meetings, community public meetings, one-one-ones, workshops
- Draft layout plan inputs via community public meetings, meetings with leadership
- Final findings presented to the public meeting

In the next NUSP newsletter we will explore some of the dynamics raised and recommendations made relating to formalisation. We look at proposed interventions on livelihoods and settlements sustainability, as well as challenges noted in community consultation meetings related to upgrading.



human settlements

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