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

# NUSP provincial forums

NUSP provincial forums are crucial channels for inter-governmental discussions between NUSP, the provinces and municipalities.

**Why are the forums important?** Forums discuss the application of NUSP technical assistance and the progress and challenges to implementation in participating municipalities. Forums provide the opportunities for forward planning and alignment of NUSP activities, as well as discussion of common issues and challenges among participating municipalities.

**Where are forums established?** The following provinces have functioning NUSP forums: Free State, Gauteng, Limpopo, Northern Cape, Western Cape, and North West. Preliminary meetings have been held in the other provinces and the NUSP team is working with its provincial counterparts to establish functional structures.

**What support do the forums provide?** A well-functioning forum provides support for all partners and stakeholders to explore particular aspects of the upgrading process and to investigate appropriate tools and methodologies. Forums are an essential element of the NUSP community of practice and provide an arena where issues are discussed and debated, information is shared, and examples of good and bad practice placed on the table for consideration.



A well-functioning forum will invite specialist guest speakers to make presentations on specific aspects of the incremental upgrading process. To illustrate, the Western Cape forum has, over the past few months, had speakers and discussions on community-led approaches to upgrading, the impact of environmental regulations on upgrading projects, and the use of basic services as a starting point for a broader upgrading process. The forum has a future session planned on different aspects of tenure and how they relate to incremental upgrading.

Forums also provide the platform for a broader membership of stakeholders in the upgrading process. For example, the Western Cape forum includes representatives from informal settlement network of community organisations, who provide valuable insights into projects and programmes from a community perspective.

The Limpopo forum has been particularly active in driving the process to assess and categorise informal settlements in municipalities across the province.

**Who can be a member of the forums?** The individual forums determine their own membership. As a minimum they should comprise provincial officials from human settlements and other relevant departments, representatives from the target municipalities, and the NUSP team.

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**What do the forums do?** The roles and activities of the forums are detailed in the provincial forums terms of reference:

- Ensure alignment of provincial human settlement business plans with Outcome 8 Delivery Agreement requirements on informal settlement upgrading
- Mobilise resources to ensure effective delivery of projects, programmes and the NUSP in line with Outcome 8 Delivery Agreement requirements
- Coordinate implementation efforts with participating NUSP municipalities, other sections in provincial departments of human settlements and other relevant provincial departments to ensure effective project delivery in line with targets
- Identify and facilitate capacity building and technical assistance to participating NUSP municipalities, communities and practitioners where necessary
- Promote good practice, information sharing and joint problem solving among participating NUSP municipalities, communities and practitioners
- Identify and develop opportunities for partnerships among participating NUSP municipalities, communities and practitioners
- Promote exchange and dialogue with other relevant learning networks and communities of practice in the field of informal settlement upgrading
- Monitor and evaluate the performance of the NUSP, and provide feedback on an ongoing basis

The establishment of NUSP forums is a formal target under the Outcome 8 National delivery agreement. Provinces are required to achieve this target and the NUSP team is available to work with provincial counterparts to assist in achieving this target. They are essential to the monitoring and evaluation of the performance of NUSP and provide feedback to the programme that serves to improve its implementation and effectiveness.

## Technical assistance underway

The procurement process for NUSP technical support work is underway. The technical assistance involves the assessment and categorisation of informal settlements in the following municipalities: Govan Mbeki, Drakenstein, Mossel Bay, Mfuleni, and Morale City.

The Department of Human Settlements has also undertaken the procurement process for the following services:

- Cape Town – facilitation services to produce development frameworks in 25 informal settlements plus the production of a consolidated upgrading programme
- Ekurhuleni – categorisation of 76 informal settlements and production of development frameworks of 18 informal settlements
- Johannesburg – production of development frameworks for 21 informal settlements and the design of a consolidated approach to upgrading
- Msunduzi – assessment and categorisation of all informal settlements in the municipality plus the production of upgrading strategy and programme
- Northern Cape – assessment and categorisation of informal settlements plus the production of upgrading strategies and programmes in five municipalities, namely Gamagara, Ga-segonyana, Phokwane, Sol Plaatjie and Tsantsabane

## New requirements

Upgrading action plans are required for all informal settlements in the 45 municipalities identified by the Cabinet Legotla in September this year. This means that an estimated 1774 informal settlements must have in place action plans as part of the drive to hit the Outcome 8 delivery agreement target. Progress in developing these plans will be reported to the Cabinet Legotla in January 2013.

This decision follows the instruction from the Cabinet Legotla in July 2011 that informal settlement upgrading plans should include provision of basic services, tenure, access to amenities, public open space and electrification. The new emphasis on settlement level planning will enable closer monitoring of progress and better targeting of resources and technical assistance. NUSP will continue to assist provinces and municipalities to meet this new requirement.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Western Cape forum – 20 November
- Eastern Cape meeting to establish NUSP forum – 21 November
- Northern Cape NUSP forum – 26 November



human settlements

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