



IN THIS ISSUE

- Introduction to Informal Settlement Upgrading course piloted
- Informal settlement upgrade boost for mining towns
- Introductory workshop NUSP and Mining Town in Distress Programme – Madibeng Local Municipality held 5 & 6 November 2014
- Mangaung Metro Informal Settlements

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 month. The aim of the module is to develop a greater understanding of the case informal settlement upgrading and of the importance of engaging with the communities and valuing and protecting social assets and livelihoods and the rights of the poor.

Ekurhuleni Metro Human Settlements department provided the participants for the pilot. The participants included a core 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' by coming out to observe the training. Neville Chaineer came out to open the 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 settlement 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 of 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 earlier this year.

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 (DHS) are partnering on the initiative, with DHS 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 support in two specific areas:

- Programme management support; and
- Technical and capacity support.

"One of our greatest human settlements challenges stems from the fact that informal settlements continue to grow faster than the rate of low income housing delivery," says HDA CEO Taffy Adler.

"This means the need for accelerated informal settlement upgrading is paramount – and particularly in mining areas, where we see the fastest growth in informal settlements."

Adler said the HDA would use its experience in informal settlement upgrades to ensure that "we move with speed to develop and implement specific plans for the 46 informal settlements that have been targeted."

The NUSP approach is based on the principle of “incremental upgrading” of informal settlements, with an emphasis on the provision of basic services and 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 approach taken by the HDA is to:

- 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.

“This is a huge undertaking, with significant implications for the future of a number of communities,” says Adler. “We need to make it work, and make it work quickly.”

Introductory workshop NUSP and Mining Town in Distress Programme – Madibeng Local Municipality held 5 & 6 November 2014

The HDA has been requested by the Minister of National Department of Human Settlements (NDHS) to provide programme and technical support in respect of the “Mining towns in distress national intervention”. Consequently NUSP support is being provided to all prioritised 6 provinces and 21 municipalities that form part of the mining town intervention.

The collaborative efforts between the NUSP and the HDA have seen various workshops taking place around the mining towns in support of the NUSP as well as the Mining Towns in Distress Programme. The purpose of these workshops has been to orientate councillors, officials and practitioners about the NUSP and mining towns in distress initiative. These workshops provide a platform where issues, concerns are raised but more importantly where knowledge is shared on these two key programmes.

Key issues amongst others such as the significance of proper planning, revitalisation, transformation and sustainability of mining towns in relation to enforcing the case for incremental upgrading through the relevant Upgrading policies and instruments are deliberated at great length.

The feedback from such sessions is always positively received by the participants more importantly it strengthens information flow on key national directives and imperatives down to a local government where implementation happens!

Mangaung Metro Informal Settlements

The Free State HDA conducted participatory processes on Mangaung Metro settlements and households profiling, socio-economic surveys and enumerations for the purpose of development of settlements resettlement plans.

On 28 October an enumerators training was conducted in Mangaung (Phelindaba/Rocklands) for nine informal settlements (Jacob Zuma, Codesa 2 and 3, Lusaka Square, Kaliya, Winkie Direko, Saliva, Joe Slovo, Randjie and Tambo Square). There were ten enumerators from various wards, of which six were employed from the community and four from the Municipality were added for the purpose of officials’ capacity building and skills transfer on informal settlements upgrading programme.

The enumerators training was followed by the Focus Group meetings on 29 and 30 with all the nine informal settlements in their respective communities. The information gathered from these meeting includes settlement’ history, settlement growth and migration patterns, economy and livelihoods, community initiatives and projects, vulnerability, access to services, community capacitation, needs and prioritisation, opportunities and an overall gathering of socio-economic status. These focus group meetings had individuals that represented the youth, elderly and disabled, local church, clinic, organisations that serves the community, leaders of the community.

These focus group meetings were held to inform the informal settlements communities about the households’ enumeration that is about to start in their areas and also to ensure gathering of qualitative data for the future upgrading plans of the settlements.



human settlements

Department:
Human Settlements
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CONTACT US

■ NUSP www.upgradingsupport.org

■ HDA 011 544 1000

■ NDHS 0800 701701