On August 26, 2016, Planact marked its 30th anniversary with a one day celebration packed with several events on this landmark year in its history.

The 30th anniversary celebrated Planact’s success in providing meaningful development interventions over the last three decades and filling gaps in the delivery of basic services for South African communities.

Founders, funders, community leaders, local development practitioners and sector partners reflected on Planact’s unique role in transforming communities over the last 30 years. Stakeholders explored how to improve development interventions and to better collaborate with state institutions and the private sector in the development process.

Established in 1985 by a group of urban development professionals, Planact has also evolved to adapt to the socio-economic and political realities of South Africa.

Social Audit Network Colloquium in Pretoria

Planact is proud to join forces with development partners towards creating a conducive environment for citizen based monitoring. In October 2016, Planact together with the Social Justice Coalition, Ndifun’ Ukwazi, Equal Education and Afesis-corplan in partnership with International Budget Partnership held a colloquium on social audits in South Africa. This was funded by the Open Society Foundation for South Africa (OSF-SA).

The colloquium was a platform to discuss the importance of citizen-based monitoring with a specific focus on social audits. Planact was represented by Shumani Luruli and Nomcebo Dlamini, who have previously led the Spring Valley Social Audit on Water Service Provision by trucks (May 2016).

Download a copy of the Social Audit report on the Planact website (Under Case Studies).
Planact staff (Mike Makwela, Nomcebo Dlamini, Shumani Luruli and Nkululeko Ndlovu) attended a week’s training on budget analysis in Cape Town facilitated by International Budget Partnership (IBP).

In Wattville...

The committee from Vosloorus Hostels, in Ekurhuleni Metropolitan municipality, approached Planact for assistance with improvement of their living conditions. During a meeting in October 2016, the community revealed problems associated with the lack of privacy in their hostels. Because the hostels were previously designed for men and now house full families it is difficult to share bathrooms and convenience rooms for both men and women. A need for pre-schools has also arisen as more children are raised in the Hostels.

As part of Planact’s Participatory Governance programme, the Vosloorus Hostel Committee will be capacitated and empowered to better engage with their local municipality. As soon as the committee is familiar with their local governance, Planact plans to assist in implementing the Integrated Human Settlement programme to upgrade and develop the area. In the long run, a precinct plan will be developed in consultation with the community and the municipality.
Financial Literacy for Local Communities

Planact in collaboration with Charter Academy and ABSA hosted an interactive Financial Literacy Training on the 10th of November 2016.

The main aim of providing remedial advice was to address the challenge of unhealthy spending and indebtedness facing communities. The sessions were divided into three segments on budgeting, savings and managing personal expenditure.

Attendees included community representatives from areas such as Wattville, Soweto (Orlando East), Thembelihle, Protea South and Noordgesig as well as Planact staff. The workshop was facilitated by Soraya Barry and Thabo Ngwenya from Charter Academy with support from Planact.

Accounting for Basic Services – KwaZenzele & Masakhane

In an effort to promote public participation, Planact has undertaken training with the community leaders in Masakhane, just outside eMalahleni (Witbank), and KwaZenzele, in Lesedi Local Municipality, to help them to better understand how local government works.

Planact was startled by the limited information that community leaders have on their local governance structures. However, further into the discussions, the leaders were able to identify some of the relevant doors they would need to knock on for service delivery. This is an on-going project which seeks to support marginalised communities to engage their government on basic service delivery and accountability.

Under the participatory governance programme, Planact seeks to support the capacity of marginalised communities to have a strong presence in local government planning and development processes. The Accounting for Basic Services project is jointly implemented by the Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF), Planact, Afesis-corplan, The Built Environment Support Group (BESG) and Isandla Institute. It is funded by the European Union.
Earlier this month, Planact accompanied a group of international students and lecturers to Cosmo City, in Johannesburg for a site visit as part of the Global Suburbanism Research Project based in Canada. The main intention of the project is to share ideas and document the nature of global suburbanism in Africa.

Planact’s work with Cosmo City since its Zevenfontein roots, was well used to share experiences with the students and the community. Accompanying the international students was Professor Alan Mabin, founder of Planact in 1985 and revered academic as well as Planact’s Senior Programme Coordinator, Mike Makwela. The students convened at the Cosmo City Multipurpose Centre where they engaged with Phasha Magagane, the Chairperson of the Cosmo City Development Forum (CCDF), as well as the current ward 100 councillor Rosinah Mosito. The tour extended to Johannesburg Inner city, Rosebank, Sandton, Waterfall (Midrand), Fourways, Steyn City, and Diepsloot.

MyJoziMoves App – 100 Phones for 100 community members

Planact has randomly selected 100 participants from various communities across Gauteng to be part of the myJoziMoves app research. The selection criteria was based on people whose traveling patterns are not similar and do not reside in close proximity to each other. Each participant received an android cellphone and 1GB data from which they will download and record their movement from the tracking app.

“Planact’s partnership in this project is based on our direct work with various communities who are the focus of this research. Planact provides training and technical support on the app while ensuring that the project is successfully implemented,” said Mike Makwela, Planact’s Senior Programme Coordinator.

The project is headed by Lindsay Howe, a doctoral student at the ETH Zurich Department of Architecture in Switzerland and a visiting scholar at the University of the Witwatersrand. She is assisted by Lucky Nkali who provides technical expertise. The mobile application was developed by Markus Ringel.

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