

# PLANACT

ANNUAL REPORT

2021/2022





#### **GRATITUDE TO DONOR PARTNERS**

Planact would like to extend its gratitude to: International Budget Partnership South Africa; MISEREOR - The German Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development Cooperation; Open Society Foundation South Africa; Raith Foundation; and the Social Justice Initiative South Africa for the financial support provided during the reporting period which has enabled Planact to execute all its programmes, in its quest to realise a just society in South Africa.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Planact's Board of Directors has worked tirelessly with the Management towards ethical governance and strategy formulation. Gratitude is extended to the Board of Directors that served during this period.

#### **The Governance Board comprise:**

Dr Geci Karuri-Sebina;  
Ms Jacqueline Sejanamane;  
Professor Marie Huchzermeyer;  
Mr Michael Kihato;  
Professor Steven Friedman and  
Mr Seana Nkhahle (Chairperson)

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# MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIRPERSON

I am privileged to introduce the Foreword to Planact's report for the year ending 31st March 2022.

South Africa has just completed the local government elections, where Planact played an observer role. The local government elections took place as the country, and the world had just gone through a second year of the Covid19 pandemic.

The local government elections were robust, and the outcome illustrated that the electorate continues to understand and value the importance of participating in this civic duty. Planact was one of the organisations that contributed to improving the electorate's understanding of this civic duty. The knowledge was given before the local government elections took place and was targeted at the most vulnerable and excluded citizens. One of the outcomes from the local government elections in December 2021, demonstrated the electorate's shift towards comprehending how the elected incumbents hold a strong bearing on the overall performance of local government.

Broadly looking at the local government performance, there is still a lot that local government needs to do to meet its obligations as required and set out by the constitution.

In several cases, citizens, especially the most vulnerable ones, are excluded from local government processes and therefore these citizens cannot present their needs safely and adequately.

For this reason, Planact has continued to use the 'rights-based approach' to exert pressure on authorities, especially at the local government level, by promoting and supporting vulnerable communities to work as a collective agency. Several community groups have been prepared to form and use community agencies to amplify their voice and be able to interface with local government authorities. Taking on these actions during the Covid19 pandemic, has been difficult for Planact and the communities it advises.

In addition to the difficulties brought about by Covid19, there are underlying challenges to note. These challenges include rapid urbanisation and migration, an increase in the number of informal settlements, a slow rate of provision of housing security, and spatial planning that is not inclusive.

As several non-governmental organisations reeled through the challenges most vulnerable communities are faced with, which were exacerbated during the pandemic, the government decreased its support to these communities.

The decrease is measured by comparing the support government provided at the beginning of the pandemic, during March 2020 and at the end of March 2022.

Regardless of the decreased support from the government, Planact's programmes managed to provide valuable support, which has reached the targeted vulnerable communities bearing these challenges. In addition to this intervention, Planact continued to advocate for empowered participation, provision of sustainable municipal basic services, climate resilience and incremental security of tenure. Planact aims to grow citizens' agency to increase the scale and replicability of its interventions, which are critical factors required to reach active citizenry in society.

Planact has illustrated that agile citizens' agency is underpinned by various applications of technological advances. This approach has made a wide stride in reaching vulnerable communities. The report outlines the various projects targeted at the vulnerable and neglected communities that have been undertaken to achieve broad citizen inclusivity and equity in resource distribution.

I take this opportunity to thank the donor partner organisations for their continued support to Planact's programme work. In the same breath, I thank the Board of Planact who give their time and the Staff Members who work dedicatedly to realise success from Planact's programme work activities.

I, therefore, invite partners and you the public to read through Planact's achievements from the past financial year.

*Seana Mahale*  
**Chairperson**

# MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Once again Planact welcomes all its partners to get a glimpse of the work it has been involved in its past year, ending 31st March 2022. This period marked the end of the hard lock down that was experienced during the Covid19 pandemic in 2020. Although there was hope that the pandemic was going to be managed, April 2021 started off with a feeling of anxiety in society from the pandemic, given that the vaccination had not yet been started. This brought about uneasiness in society and how citizens went about their daily living routine. Masks have still been order of the day and there has been very little venture for outdoor activities.

This status continued to affect Planact's project intervention activities in the office and in the field. During this period, Planact started engaging in field activities in a limited way. Planact took precaution to prevent or minimise the risk of spreading or contracting Covid19 by drawing out guidelines to use in engaging communities it supports as well as government officials it needed to work with. At the time, communities required more support than normally has been in the past. In addition to the challenges of living a decent life, vulnerable communities' challenges of living were compounded by the impact of the pandemic.

The communities' priorities that Planact supports shifted from attending to issues pertaining to their 'rights' to search of daily food. This proved difficult for Planact to draw the communities' attention to collaborate properly on issues pertaining to provision of acceptable municipal services and other related short comings. The difficulty was due to the immediate prevalent economic issues in society at large and affecting the vulnerable communities adversely. These communities had no immediate anchor to go to, but to turn to Planact for support. Although the situation looked gloomy for most of the vulnerable communities, the communities were resilient and persevered through the situation. This provided a window to Planact to continue partnerships and collaborating with its targeted communities. Despite the third wave of Covid19 that was looming, Planact was fairly confident that it would adapt to the anticipated conditions as previously and would continue its operations.

On another front, this period also saw reduced financial support from philanthropy organisations to Non-Governmental Organisations. Although there was still some funding support from traditional sources, the demand for financial and technical support could not be met by the supply.

However, Planact managed to withstand these factors by seeking collaboration with government and international institutions working on programmes supporting mitigation of the Covid19 prevalence in vulnerable communities.

As one of the assignments Planact took on, was to conduct a research study on the performance of the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) in the Gauteng Province, through the International Labour Organisation in conjunction with the South African Department of Public Works. The study assessed the extent the EPWP reached in involving communities and providing community members with a founding base for continued employment beyond the EPWP. It was found that the programme's intentions were good, however, the results were not long lasting. It was recommended that the programme had to change the approach from targeting a wider reach and rather engage deeper with a narrow reach. Planact took on this assignment, in addition to the contractual obligations that are directly related to Planact's programme work.

Planact's programme work is centred around improving citizens' genuine and full involvement in local government's development processes, to influence the local development trajectory.

With this involvement, it is anticipated that citizens would be able to pave a way to create an enabling environment for themselves to hold local government authorities and politicians accountable to the decisions they make.

For Planact to achieve this mission, its three programmes emphasised advocacy on the following:

- Improved municipal procedural systems regarding upgrading informal settlements.
- A well-formed and sustained provision of basic municipal services through the 'Asivikelane' Campaign Project.
- An increased space for citizens to influence development processes towards the citizens' most pressing needs, and
- A flow of information specifically at local government level, to increase transparency at this level of government.

Planact's geographical area of work was in the Gauteng Province City of Johannesburg, City of Ekurhuleni, City of Tshwane Metropolitans and in Mpumalanga Province's Emalahleni Local Municipality. This work targeted approximately 35 informal settlements, with an average household of 550 per informal settlement using the cluster concept. The cluster concept, which Planact developed is continuously assessed for improved performance.

During the 2021 financial year, Planact adapted to the Covid situation and revised its program activities to include media and awareness campaigns and recruited many Community Facilitators to assist in implementing its programme activities. This continued in the reporting period. From April 2021 Planact's Program Coordinators were gradually able to increase their presence in the communities using Community Facilitators.

Details of Planact's programme activities are provided in the projects undertaken, which is in the programme section of this report. Elaboration is given on:

- Strengthening of community based social movements and initiatives,
- Innovations leading to the Right to the City, and
- Municipal accountability through community social auditing and active citizenry.

As Planact is about to reach ten years since the last external evaluation was conducted, preparations of the next external evaluation of Planact's programme were undertaken with the relevant stakeholders. The stakeholders are community partners, government institutions, academic institutions, public and private institutions.

Given all these achievements, Planact gives its gratitude to the donor partners who have continually supported it to achieve its mission. In Planact the board has always been instrumental in its guidance and the staff members have been dedicated and purposeful in their work. A gratitude goes to them as well!

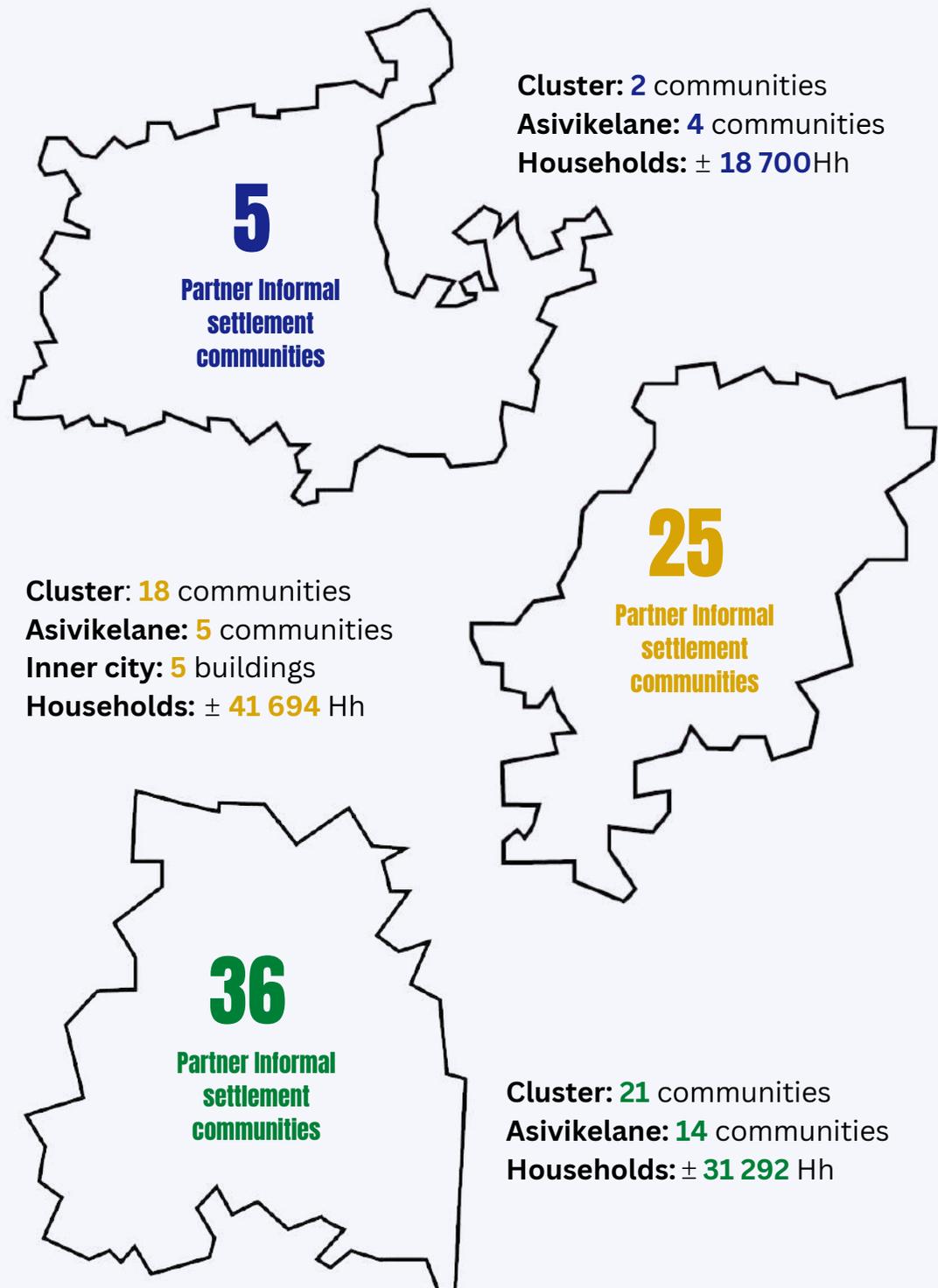
Planact continues to work towards improvement in society!

*Frederick Kusambira - Kiingi*  
**Executive Director**

# AN OVERVIEW OF PLANACT'S PROGRAMME

Planact's multi-sectoral approach to strengthening advocacy and systemic change has benefited several vulnerable communities in South Africa. The approach includes the reorientation of evidence-based knowledge to inform programmes and support the advocacy work. This then safeguards the development of appropriate interventions likely to result in change at local and other spheres of government.

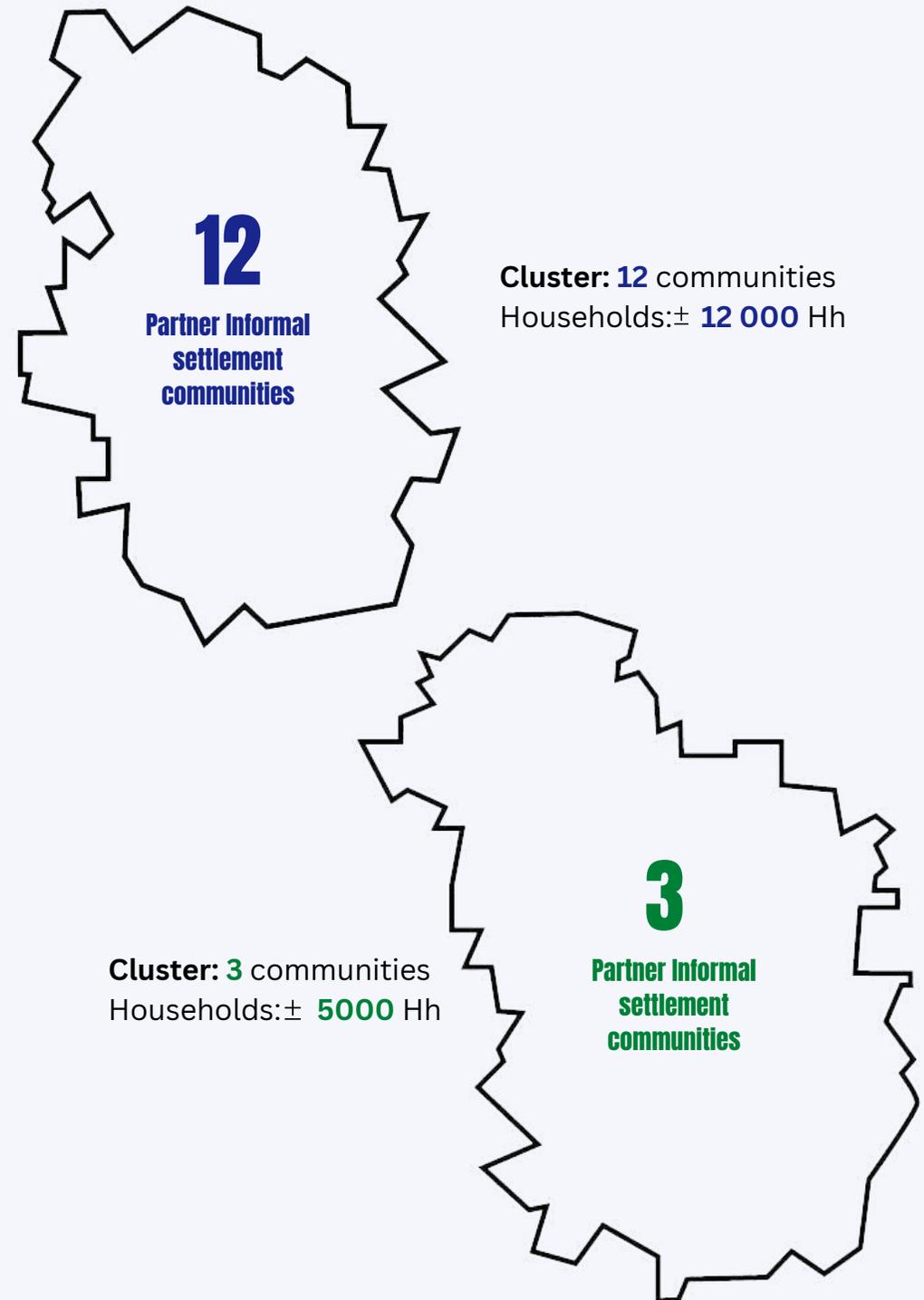
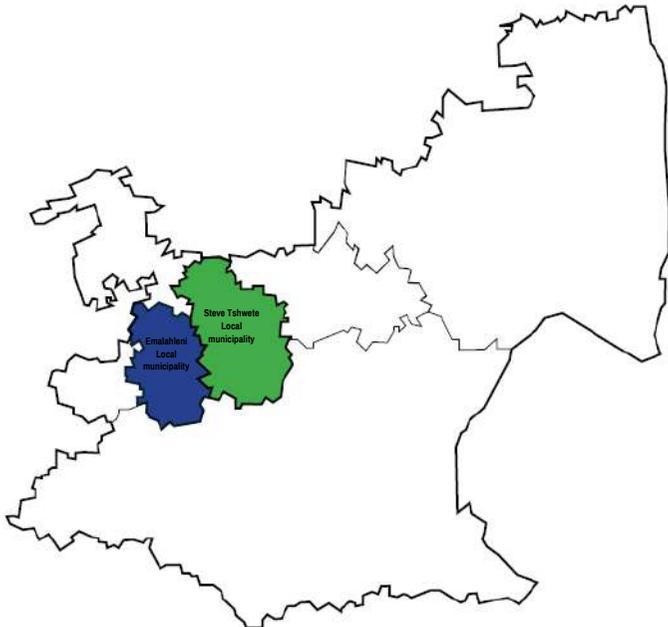
## Project areas in Gauteng province



This report highlights successes, challenges and opportunities experienced by Planact's partner communities because of the implementation of the evidence-based approaches and the three programmes, namely, Strengthened Grassroots Voices, Responsive Living Environment and Sustainable Community Livelihood Initiatives.

The programmatic interventions were implemented in three metropolitan municipalities in Gauteng province, namely City of Johannesburg, Tshwane, and Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipalities. The programmes also extended to three local municipalities in Mpumalanga Province, namely, Emalahleni Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality and Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. Planact also ventured to the Limpopo Province, working in five local municipalities under Waterberg District Municipality, namely, Bela-Bela, Thabazimbi, Modimolle-Mookgophong, Lephalale and Mogalekwena Local Municipalities.

### Project areas in Mpumalanga province



# STRENGTHENING GRASSROOT VOICES

## Programme summary

The aim of the programme is to influence bureaucratic systems through improved participation, specifically at local government and pilot projects.



In the past year Planact has focused at capacitating and empowering informal settlements communities on public housing policy processes such as the UISP.



The cluster adopted a housing campaign called "Roof Is My Right" to decent housing, as a result of understanding the basic human right to housing. The campaign is a cause of action to achieve dignified housing and security of tenure for informal settlement communities



Planact took the opportunity to support marginalised communities to exercise their constitutional rights to participate in the 2021 local government elections.



Planact has recently partnered with a new informal settlement under the Asivikelane campaign. A social audit was conducted to understand sanitation challenges within the informal settlement.

Planact now supports approximately 60 partner informal settlement communities to demand accountability and transparency from their municipalities. The goal is to ensure that the municipalities carry out their developmental mandate and improve the living conditions in these communities.

## **Capacitating, encouraging and empowering communities on public housing policy processes**

This year, Planact was focused on capacitating the informal settlement clusters on the national housing policy and its various housing programmes. This was achieved through conducting workshops on the relevant housing policies and programmes such as the Upgrading of Informa Settlements (UISP). The clusters have since resolved to hold municipalities accountable to the implementation of the UISP.

This project empowered partner communities to engage with the municipalities confidently after they had a better understanding of their constitutional right to decent, safe, and sustainable housing and basic services thereof.

## **Roof Is My Right campaign**

Planact held capacity development workshops on housing rights in South Africa with MASCOM, the cluster in Emalahleni and with Ekurhuleni Informal Settlement Movement (EISM) the cluster in Ekurhuleni. MASCOM is made up with this intervention, members of the informal settlements in MASCOM Cluster, acquired a better understanding of what their rights are regarding 'Access to adequate housing' and as a result MASCOM embarked on a housing campaign, called "Roof Is My Right" (RIMR). The campaign was is a cause of action to achieve dignified housing and security of tenure for informal settlement communities. Planact in partnership with Ekurhuleni Informal Settlement Movement successfully engaged with the municipal HumanSettlements department in the City of Ekurhuleni and obtainedthe preliminary reportcontaining municipal plansfor informal settlements upgrading under the RIMR campaign. The cluster uses this information to monitor implementation of the upgrading processes.



**AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY-  
BASED SOCIAL MOVEMENTS  
TO STRENGTHEN ADVOCACY**



The preliminary report revealed that some informal settlements in the MASCOM cluster had been scheduled for upgrading but the upgrading had not happened yet. The cluster engaged the authorities at the Emalaheni Local Municipality using this information. Although this matter, had not yet been resolved with the municipality in the reporting period, it was evident that the cluster was in position to engage the municipality confidently due to the information it had acquired.

This capacity development is planned for clusters that Planact supports, which are in different geographic areas.

As a result of engaging the municipality MASCOM was offered a sit in the municipalities Integrated Development Planning (IDP) stakeholders forum. This afforded MASCOM an opportunity to be involved at an early stage and effectively fulfil active citizenry through public participation. It enhances capacity for participatory, in integrated human settlement planning.

As a result of lack of cooperation from the human settlements department in ELM, issues pertaining to access to upgrading plans were escalated to the provincial department as the Nkangala District municipality absolved itself from the housing responsibility. The provincial department shared the upgrading plans and were very willing to form a partnership with Planact.

Through this campaign informal settlement communities can collectively advocate for their right to a house and are able to hold municipalities accountable for poor implementation of upgrading process, lack of access to adequate, safe and affordable housing. This work contributes to achieving the SDG goal 11 aimed at making human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable for all, through the communities' collective agency and advocacy.



## Planact's observer mission for the 2021 local government elections

The right to vote is protected by the South African constitution but frighteningly low voter turnouts are reported to be a threat to democracies like South Africa.

Planact took the opportunity to capacitate marginalized communities to exercise their constitutional rights to participate in the 2021 local government elections. Communities were capacitated to understand how the multiparty political party system functions. This included, how to engage with political campaigners and to hold them accountable after assuming office. Having the marginalized communities participate meaningfully in the elections, ensures that all citizens get equal opportunity in exercising their voting rights and provides legitimacy to the results.



In October 2021, Planact, successfully applied for observer accreditation status with the Electoral Commission of South Africa (Electoral Commission). The organisation received a one-year accreditation on observing the 2021 Local Government Elections (LGE) on condition that it strictly adheres to the Code for Accredited Observers.

Planact arranged a workshop on the right to vote and had an official from the IEC facilitating the entire session. Planact took a decision to have an observer mission for the 2021 local government elections. The missions comprised 25 representatives made up of four from Planact and 21 from its partner communities. Participants shared lessons emanating from this experience and there was a general feeling that this was an exercise worth taking up in the future to ensure that marginalized members of society can take place in such missions.

## Asivikelane - giving a voice to informal settlement residents

Municipalities have been constitutionally tasked with providing basic, sustainable and effective services, however realisation of this developmental agenda is not as easy as it may seem.

When the COVID19 storm hit South Africa in March 2020, Planact's method of operation had to change and include empowering citizens to monitor their own municipal services. This is the main aim of the Asivikelane (Let's protect each other) initiative - to give a voice to informal settlement residents in South Africa's major cities who face severe basic service shortages.

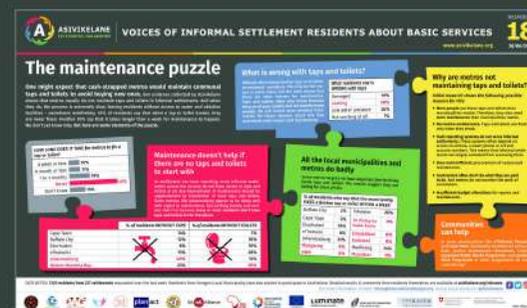
Planact currently supports over 27 community facilitators, who in turn, work with volunteers from their various communities to advocate for municipal accountability for basic service delivery in informal settlements by monitoring service delivery from their respective municipalities. To date, over 40 communities and over a thousand people have seen a change in their community through the Asivikelane intervention.

## Below are some of the Asivikelane releases:



**Taps and toilets**  
where residents have no access to water and sanitation at all.

## Asivikelane #18: The maintenance puzzle



Asivikelane National release

# 23

OUT NOW

Sanitation is not complicated – just ask residents.

Residents say government should do the following:

IN YOUR INFORMAL SETTLEMENT OVER THE LAST 7 DAYS...	AVG. TOWN COUNCIL WATER PROVIDED	HOW MANY TOILETS LEAKING?	HOW MANY WASTE COLLECTED?
ECURHULENI	48%	58%	77%
BUFFALO CITY	77%	45%	45%
TSHIMANE	69%	41%	39%
JOHANNESBURG	67%	57%	78%
PTHEKWINI	43%	35%	43%
MANGALING	32%	0%	27%
CAPE TOWN	31%	41%	63%
MELBORN MANDELA BAY	30%	20%	63%





Every month, community facilitators collate data from volunteers across the City of Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg, Tshwane municipalities as well as in Emfuleni local municipality. The data collected is shared with municipal officials to engage on issues identified; communities as well as the media to hold municipalities accountable for poor service delivery. The data is also used to devise means and propose solutions to address the challenges.

At the beginning of 2021 Asivikelane increase their focus to review municipal budgets for Upgrading of Informal settlements (UISP). This was in line with the municipal IDP and budget submission period. Unsurprisingly, findings from the budget review were that the budget allocated to UISP projects was inadequate for successful implementation of the programme, hence various municipalities still provide temporary inadequate basic services instead of incrementally implementing the upgrading plans towards permanent solutions. Furthermore, the municipal budgets are favoured towards the development and sustainability of townships and suburban areas.

Asivikelane is a great participatory democracy model which ensures full circle service delivery.

### **Community-led social audit on sanitation in Phomolong**

Planact recently partnered with Phomolong Informal settlement in Tshwane Metropolitan municipality under the Asivikelane initiative. Planact conducted a social audit to understand sanitation and refuse removal services by the City of Tshwane in Phomolong, and the level of service delivery and municipal budget allocations.

Phomolong (a Sotho word meaning resting place) informal settlement is one of the old informal settlements in the City of Tshwane. This informal settlement is within Mamelodi ext 6 and located in ward 16 of the City of Tshwane in the Gauteng Province.

# RESPONSIVE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

## Programme summary

The aim of this programme is to show evidence of different successful methods of practice in supporting citizens to achieve improvements in the quality of their settlements or neighbourhoods.



Planact partnered with Google Maps India in a project called Digital addressing and street naming in informal settlements. Amongst other socio-economic benefits that this project brings, digital addresses and street naming would unlock opportunities of economic development. Micro businesses in the community can use their digital addresses to not only be found by customers but also potential partners and investors



Planact took the opportunity to partake in global warming awareness campaign called 'Urban Heat Monitoring campaign'. The Urban Heat Monitoring Campaign focused on measuring the heat stress felt by people living in different environments. This was a great opportunity to educate our partner communities on the importance of taking care of their surrounding environment and avoid any activities that increase the heat stress.

## Plus Codes for everyone: Digital Addressing in informal settlements

The right to adequate housing is clearly enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa, but government has been grasping at straws to ensure everyone is afforded this right. To address this, Planact's latest digital addressing project aims to support people in disadvantaged areas, particularly in informal settlements, to enjoy the same rights as people living in the formal housing sector. The digital addresses by Google are called Plus Codes and are a quick and reliable form of addressing and a step in the direction of enquiring security of tenure and improve the day to day living of vulnerable.

A pilot project was implemented in partnership with Google in 2019 in Skoonplaas informal settlement in the City of Ekurhuleni, a stone's throw from Gold One Mine. Residents had to adapt to innovative ways of training by the Google Maps team in India via Google Meet during the worldwide lockdown period.

Once digital addresses had been assigned and verified by Google, address boards were printed to be fixed on the properties mapped ready to be used. The address boards represented a physical culmination of the year-long amount of work and gave the residents of Skoonplaas something to show for.

Noteworthy in this project is the recognition by the Interdepartmental Informal settlements Technical Task Team in the City of Ekurhuleni which consists of portfolios such as the Township establishment; Policy development; Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division as well as the regional informal settlement management departments among others. Although the conversation is still going on, the seed of the need for innovative spatial planning for informal settlements has been planted.

Furthermore, In October 2021, Planact was invited to share the Skoonplaas pilot project journey at the annual Geo for Good Summit which was held virtually due to the pandemic.

*Watch Mike Makwela's contribution here -*  
<https://earthoutreachonair.withgoogle.com/events/geoforgood21/watch?talk=inclusion-addressing-panel>

# INCREMENTAL SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Digital addressing in Skoonplaas has proven to be a valuable success in improving the standards of living in the community. Residents are able to call the ambulance directly to their gates and community leaders have confirmed that the Victim Support Unit in the City of Ekurhuleni has found value in using the Plus Code addresses to locate survivors of violence.

The reliability of the digital addresses was tested by ordering a pizza for the volunteers to enjoy. While the ordering of a pizza may seem trivial, it represents access to the outside that the community did not have before. The low standards of living in informal settlements are underpinned by the lack of services to residents living there. Emergency services such as police and ambulances can easily find and assist people when a digital address is present.

A digital address could also unlock opportunities of economic development. The partnership with Google Maps has allowed the community of Skoonplaas to be visible on a scale that is only achievable in the digital age. Micro businesses in the community can use their digital address to not only be found by customers but also potential partners and investors. The full impact of digital addresses is yet to be seen but from the small successes coming from Skoonplaas, this alternative route to tenure security may prove to be a shift in mind set and strategies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7dxAho5jGo>



## Urban Heat Monitoring Campaign : Helping cities and vulnerable communities to plan and adapt to climate change

The Urban Heat Monitoring Campaign focused on measuring the heat stress felt by people living in different environments in the City of Ekurhuleni and the City of Johannesburg. Spread out in six different areas across the two cities the project recorded readings in informal settlements, CBDs, suburbs as well as industrial areas to build a comprehensive snapshot of how the temperature changes present themselves in these major cities.

The heat monitoring took place over 6 days in the summer months of January and February. Heat stress was measured at midday on clear and sunny days to ensure that the peak heat stress was recorded. Each outdoor monitoring campaign took place over one full day at the training locations identified by the local community. Field work took place from 1pm and 3pm after a workshop on Climate Change and heat stress was conducted. These times proved ideal from measuring heat stress as they were generally the hottest parts of the day. The participants monitored the loggers as well as the readings produced. They also took pictures of any changing weather conditions and noted the immediate surroundings of measurement locations

To illustrate the full effects of the changing climate the project also measured the levels of heat stress indoors over a period of 6 days. It was important that this information from the indoor readings be combined with the outdoor measurements as any recommendations and solutions that come from

The project concluded with reflection sessions from not only the participants but also city officials from Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni. Community participants mentioned on how they had seen the effects of climate change in their everyday lives but did not know what this was called and if there was anything, they could do about it. Experts from sector departments both municipalities stated that climate change is affecting how local authorities carry out their responsibility, especially when it comes to service provision.

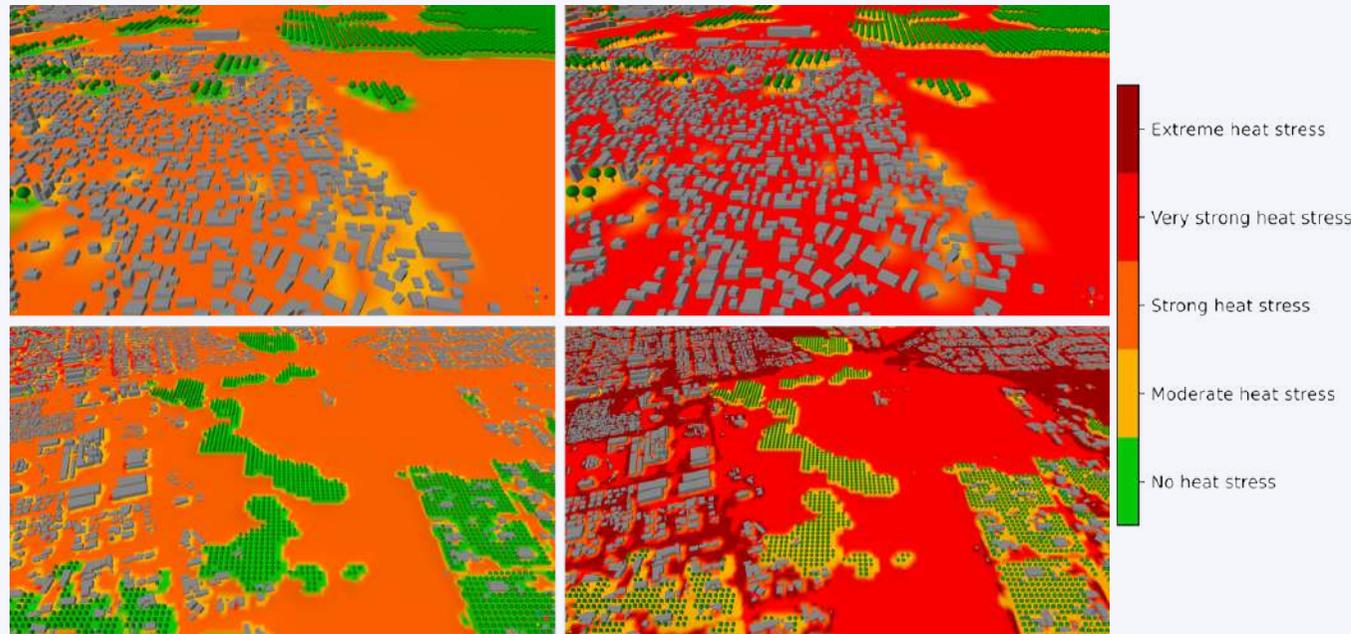


An official in the Waste Management Department in The City of Johannesburg commented, “Extreme heat affects the waste that we are managing by creating bad odours. The flooding sometimes affects the waste collection system because trucks are struggling to access certain areas”.

The Urban Heat Monitoring project played a role in the many efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change in urban areas. The importance of the areas that Planact worked in was one of the few instances where climate change was seen from the lens of communities in informal settlements. While there are numerous campaigns to combat climate change in big cities, these are hardly ever directed at informal settlements.

Recommendations from community participants included innovation around the materials used when building structures. Most homes in informal settlements are made of corrugated iron, a strong conductor of heat or which only intensify the heat/cold. The project also highlighted the lack of greening in informal settlements, which could not only aid in tempering heat stress but also increase conservation efforts in communities that are often overlooked.

[WATCH] Urban Heat Monitoring Campaign: Gauteng - <https://youtu.be/ly-DVI5IP6A>



Heat stress levels in Primrose (upper panels) and Alexandra/Lombardy (lower panels) for the heatwave day of 6 January 2016 at 15:00 under present-day (left panels) and future (2050, high climate scenario, right panels) conditions. Maps for these and a few other neighbourhoods can be accessed and interactively manipulated at <https://bit.ly/3OeabxW>.

# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS INITIATIVES

## Programme summary

The programme is aimed to demonstrate various processes of how citizens can identify assets within the communities, which are matched to available external resources. At this lowest level in improvement, the efficiency and success of policy and practice is illustrated.



Building on a community's assets rather than focusing the handouts from the government is the basic approach of asset-based community development. The methodology focus on successes and small accomplishments instead of looking at their community from a "glass half empty" perspective. This approach provides a sustainable approach to development



In an effort to improve economic development in the community, a Wattville precinct plan and a spatial visioning of Local Economic Development project has been developed by Planact in partnership with Wattville Ward 30 Committee as well as the Wattville Business Forum.



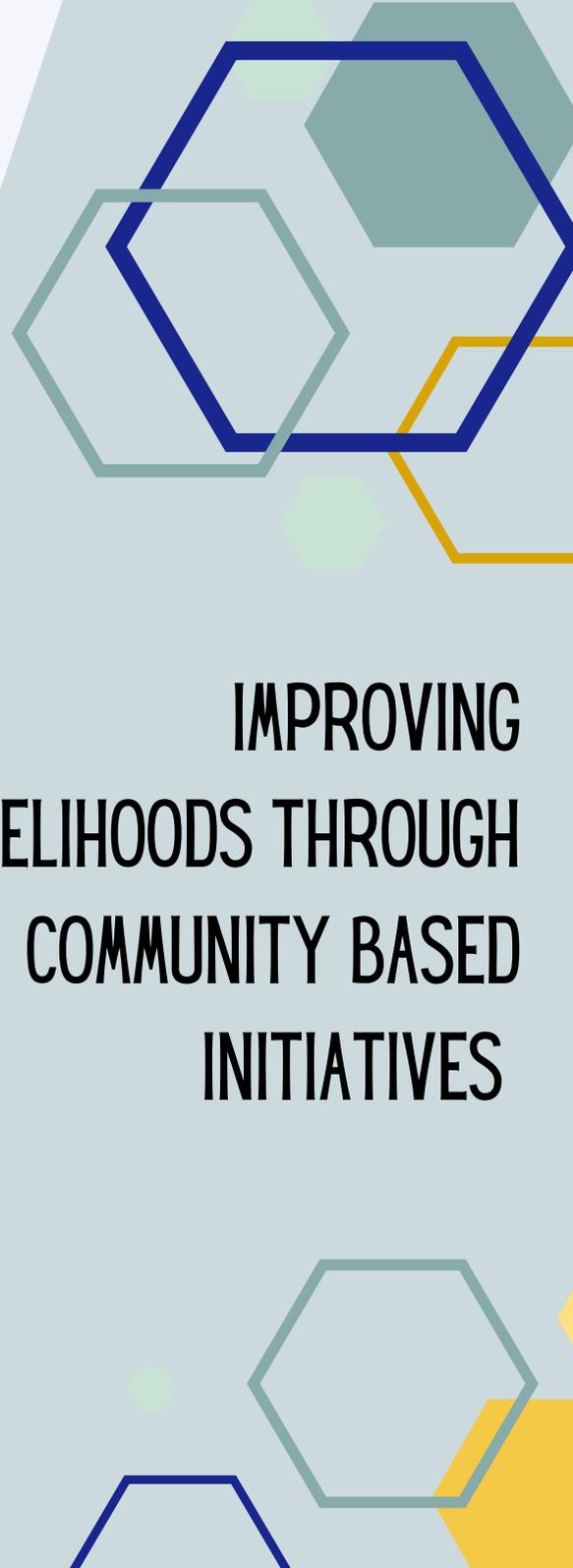
This year Planact assisted a group of unemployed young people decided to come together and form the Wattville Environmental, Tourism and Agricultural Forum. The forum aims to alleviate poverty by working on food security and job creation.

## Assets Based Community Development

Planact's sustainable livelihood initiative programme aims to link marginalised communities to local economic opportunities and processes within government development programmes in efforts to promote equitable resource and opportunity distribution.

Within the ABCD implementation, over 100 people were trained this year to build their capacity and identify opportunities of improvement with their various communities. In this year, workshops were conducted in the Emfuleni Local Municipality region, for the Ekurhuleni cluster of informal settlements as well as Inner City region and Wattville in the City of Ekurhuleni. Through the inspiration from the training and capacity building, the residents from the Betrams block in the Johannesburg Inner City have started a bakery, waste recycling and food garden with assistance from the partnership with the Inner City Resource Centre.

Noteworthy this year, is the growing partnership with the Gauteng Department of Co-Operative Governance & Traditional Affairs with whom Planact is working with to achieve the objectives of the ABCD methodology and initiative projects in the communities. From the partnership with this government department, Planact has been able to tap into the resources needed by communities such as the services of the ABCD acclaimed consultants who bring along resources for training.



**IMPROVING  
LIVELIHOODS THROUGH  
COMMUNITY BASED  
INITIATIVES**

Planact believes that ABCD is a powerful tool that enhances public participation in the local community. It pushes the boundaries of self-actualization, instead of residents asking “what can government do for us as a community”, the question is turned around to “what assets do we have as a community,” as said by Mike Makwela, Planact’s Senior Programme Coordinator. However, the ABCD is not a replacement of government for investing in service improvement or attempting to address the structural causes of poverty and inequality.

The implementation of the ABCD methodology does not only seek to solve economic and social problems at community-level. It also seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable which is an international goal that South Africa supports.



## Wattville economic development projects

This year, Planact supported a group of Wattville residents through capacity building to create and sustain food security, beautify their community to attract tourists and create employment opportunities for themselves.

Wattville is one of the oldest townships in the Benoni area within the jurisdiction of the City of Ekurhuleni. In the 1990s, the Wattville Concerned Residents Committee (WCRC) requested Planact to assist them with a number of housing and service delivery issues in the township. To date, the relationship with the township has evolved to cater for population growth and migration due to the industries surrounding Wattville, which makes it attractive. However, Wattville has not been spared from the social ills that come with the high levels of unemployment, poverty, hunger and inequality, in particular for the youth residing in townships and informal settlements.

In an effort to further improve economic development in the community, a Wattville precinct plan and a spatial visioning of Local Economic Development project have been developed by Planact in partnership with Wattville Ward 30 Committee as well as the Wattville Business Forum.

The precinct plan includes frameworks, policies and plans and catalytic projects in Wattville while the spatial visioning shows that land use is predominantly residential with pockets of other uses such as retail, street trade and parks.

The projects above are expected to create new skills and opportunities through networks and partnerships, create linkages with established enterprises as well as a safe space for children to play at community parks and other open spaces. In the short to medium term, the project will rely on donor funding.



Plan view of the Kekani street market

## Urban Greening in Wattville

This year, a group of unemployed young people decided to come together and form the Wattville Environmental, Tourism and Agricultural Forum with the assistance of Planact. The Forum comprises the following community based organisations: Reyahola farming enterprise (secondary cooperative), Ekurhuleni Roads Cleaning Project, Rooikamp Legacy Project, The Fella Brothers Projects, Bahlali-Voice Business Forum, Aerotropolis Housing Cooperative, Central Sihlangene and Advocates of the Environment.

### The Environmental Forum mentioned above will contribute to several benefits for the community, including the following:-

- Create and sustain food security in the area, poor families will benefit from the food gardens initiated in each household and in the community.
- The projects will beautify the area, and this will result in increased tourists in Wattville.
- The project will explore other new initiatives such as starting a nursery garden in the community. Adopt a wetland clean campaign, which will contribute to protecting flora and fauna in the community.
- The projects intend on establishing environmental brigades in the community in partnership with local schools to reduce illegal dumping and promoting green environment in the area.
- The projects intend on organising periodical environmental education and awareness programmes in the area.



Urban Agriculture/Community Farm bird's eye view

**These organisations aimed to achieve the following in the short, medium and long term:-**

- Create 350 job opportunities in Wattville. Through the environmental brigades programme, tour guides and agricultural projects, creating compost through rubble.
- Create new skills and opportunities through networks and partnerships with well-established enterprises. At least in the short to medium term, create linkages with 5 well established enterprises to partner on environmental preservation, agri-processing initiatives.
- Create safe space for children to play at community parks and other open spaces. In the long term this will improve social cohesion and reduce crime and other social ills

In the short to medium term, the project will rely on donor funding to buy tools, acquire operating facility (office container), operational costs, however in the long term the organisations hope to be self-sustainable. The organisations will be hosting monthly agricultural expo, so that the community and the surrounding areas can come purchase the fresh produce. The organisations will host community events in clean and safe parks or open spaces and raise funds. Through the nursery, the organisations will be able to generate funds sufficient funds to run their organisations.



# MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

## 2021-2022



- Followers = 346
- Posts = 113



- Profile visits = 9431
- Impressions (reach) = 150049
- Times Planact was mentioned = 369



- Page reach = 11,782
- Likes = 978
- Users:
  - Women**  
45.7%
  - Men**  
54.3%

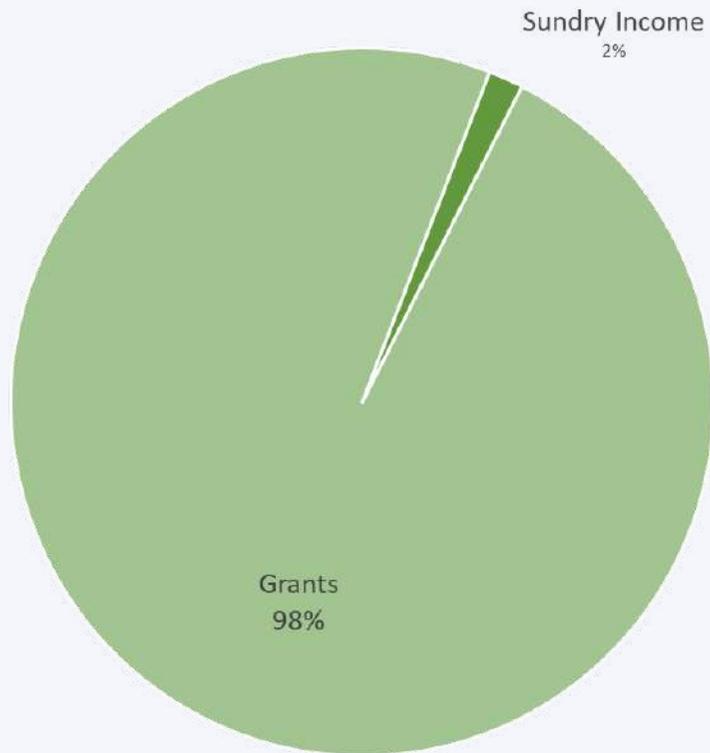


- Videos uploaded = 9
- Video views = 593
- Popular video =  
Street naming in  
Thembelihle  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsXGBGlpWZU&t=19s>

# FINANCIAL REPORT

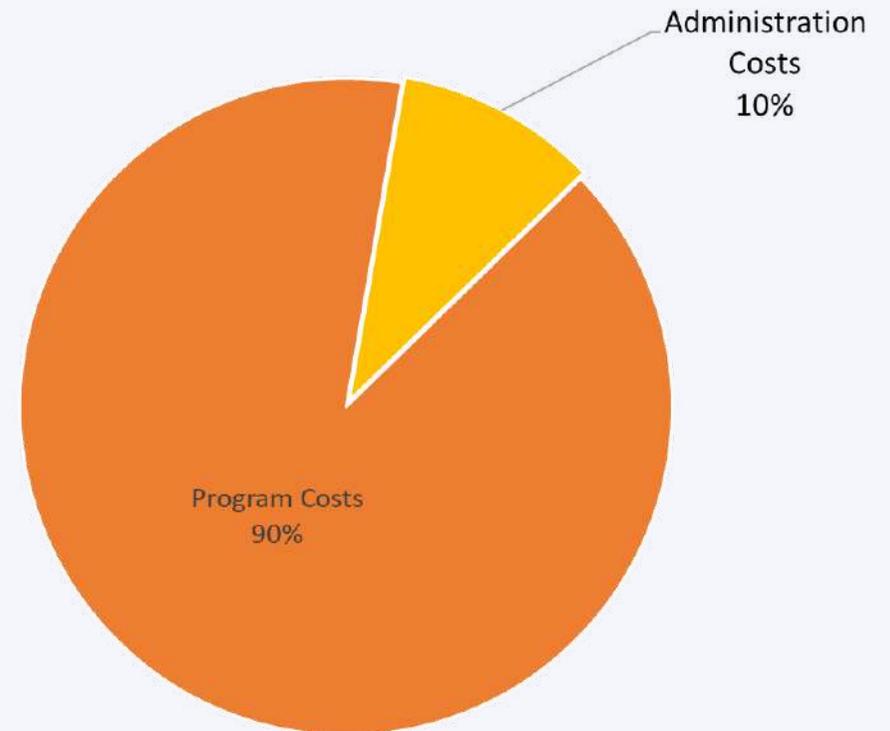
## Summary

### Revenue 2022



■ Grants ■ Sundry Income

### Expenditure 2022



■ Program Costs ■ Administration Costs

Planact's administrative costs amounted to R 773,497 during the 2022 financial year. This amount included all the fixed operational overhead costs. These costs represent an overall 2% increase on the previous financial year.

The organisation was able to keep within the available budgets provided by the donor partners. Planact complied with all the government's statutory requirements and within the stipulated timeframes.

An external financial audit was performed during April 2022 and the financial audited statements are available for public examination on the Planact website. The audit was performed by Smith Savage Chartered and Professional Accountants; based in Johannesburg South Africa.

## ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES



## **Programme Support**

The programmes were managed and implemented by twelve staff members in the categories of Programme Manager and Programme Coordinators. A team of two Human Resource staff provided financial and administrative support to the program staff and program activities.

The Programme Manager was responsible for monitoring of programme activities and engaged in set periodic meetings with Programme Coordinators.

## **Financial Support**

We are pleased to announce that the scale of Planact's financial operations continued to increase in the 2022 financial year. This was possible due to continued support from our four major donors and new partnerships being established, resulting in our financial support surpassing its previous highest of R7.8 Million in 2021 to reach R7.9 Million in 2022. Expenditure for this period amounted to almost R7.7 million.

Planact's staff complement remained unchanged during the 2022 financial year. Overall the organisation is understaffed and therefore has limited capacity to execute new programmatic interventions. To address this gap, Planact continued with the engagement of community volunteers to provide support at different intervals.

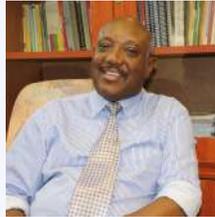
The challenges of the Covid lockdown have been well coped with. Staff continued to adapt to a substantially new way of operating both internally and externally to achieve our program goals. In this regard our engagement with community volunteers continues to develop, and remains critical to implementing our programmes.

Planact does have to constantly navigate the pressures in the donor funding environment. The development sector is competitive of skills built up from the NGO expertise and therefore, organisations like ours face the constant threat of losing well experienced staff. However, all effort is continuously invested to improve the situation.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

# COMPOSITION OF STAFF MEMBERS

The Planact staff complement remained at ten staff for the 2022 year:



**Executive Director**  
Frederick Kusambiza-Kiingi



**Programme Manager**  
Hloniphile Simelane



**Financial Manager**  
Spiro Paxinos



**Senior Administrator**  
Tshidi Morotolo



**Information and Resource  
Coordinator**  
Chelsea Ndlovu-Nachamba



**Senior Programme  
Coordinator**  
Mike Makwela



**Programme Coordinator**  
Shumani Luruli



**Programme Coordinator**  
Siphwe Segodi



**Assistant Programme  
Coordinator**  
Wetu Memela



**Assistant Programme  
Coordinator**  
Bafana Tshabalala



**Intern**  
Hlengiwe Mbambo

*The staff was augmented by community field assistants and volunteers.*

Two staff were provided with financial assistance to further their studies – a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Law at University of the Western Cape and an Advanced Diploma in Communication Management at the University of Johannesburg.



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