



PLANACT

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023



GRATITUDE TO DONOR PARTNERS

Planact would like to extend its gratitude to: International Budget Partnership; MISEREOR - The German Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development Cooperation; Open Society Foundation; Raith Foundation; and the Social Justice Initiative 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 THE

BOARD CHAIRPERSON

As we mark 30 years since the dawn of democracy in South Africa, this reporting period has been both a moment of reflection and renewed commitment to social justice and local governance transformation. The past year has unfolded against a dynamic and complex backdrop – one where political, social, and economic factors have significantly shaped the local government landscape.

The evolving governance structures in South Africa's metropolitan cities have posed new challenges, particularly with the increasing prevalence of coalition governments. These coalitions, while reflecting the diversity of our democratic society, have often been fraught with instability, threatening effective service delivery and accountability at the local level. Despite these uncertainties, Planact has remained steadfast in

its mission: strengthening grassroots participation, fostering sustainable communities, and promoting transparency in governance.

This period has also been marked by preparations for South Africa's 7th general elections, a crucial milestone in our democratic journey. These elections are not merely a procedural exercise but a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to a government that is accountable to its people. As a civil society organisation, Planact has played an instrumental role in ensuring that previously marginalised and vulnerable citizens are empowered to engage meaningfully in the democratic process.

Throughout the year, Planact's three core programmes have continued to drive meaningful change:

1. **Strengthened Grassroots Voices** – We have reinforced civic engagement by equipping communities with the knowledge and tools needed to advocate for their rights. By supporting public participation platforms and citizen-led initiatives, we have enabled communities to hold municipalities accountable and demand improved service delivery.
2. **Responsive Living Environments** – Planact's efforts in informal settlement upgrading and participatory planning have brought tangible improvements to housing, infrastructure, and access to essential services. These interventions have ensured that community needs and voices are not sidelined in urban development projects.
3. **Sustainable Community Livelihoods Initiatives** – In the face of economic challenges, we have continued to support local economic initiatives that enhance community resilience. Through skills development and sustainable livelihood projects, we have contributed to creating opportunities for employment and self-sufficiency among vulnerable groups.

At this historic juncture, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing a just, equitable, and inclusive society. Our work remains crucial in a landscape where political shifts, economic disparities, and social injustices persist. As we look ahead, Planact will continue to champion participatory governance, equitable urban development, and the empowerment of those who have long been excluded from decision-making processes.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners, funders, and communities who share in our vision. Together, we remain committed to building a South Africa where local governance serves all, without discrimination, and where every citizen has a voice in shaping their future.

Seana Nkhahle
Chairperson



MESSAGE FROM THE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INTRODUCTION

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present Planact's Annual Report for the period 01st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. Over the past year, we have remained steadfast in our mission to strengthen democracy at the local government level, enhance community participation, and promote sustainable livelihoods. Planact's commitment to empowering marginalised and vulnerable communities has been the driving force behind our initiatives, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs addressed in local development processes.

FOSTERING MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

During this reporting period, Planact played a pivotal role in facilitating meaningful participatory engagements between government institutions and community members. Through our social facilitation support, we created platforms for inclusive discussions on key development areas, particularly in integrated human settlements development, municipal budgeting, social labour plans, performance management, and integrated development planning. These engagements have not only strengthened dialogue between stakeholders but have also reinforced the principle that development should be people-centered and driven by community needs.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

A crucial aspect of our work has been to equip community leaders, ward committees, and councillors with the necessary knowledge and skills to engage effectively in participatory governance. Through targeted capacity development sessions and workshops, we have enhanced their understanding of governance structures, accountability mechanisms, and their roles in local decision-making processes. This initiative has empowered community representatives to actively contribute to development planning, ensuring that their interests are not only recognised but also prioritised.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COHESION AND ADVOCACY

Collaboration among different community organisations has been instrumental in fostering unity and amplifying grassroots voices in development processes. Planact has worked tirelessly to strengthen community cohesion by encouraging collective action, supporting advocacy initiatives, and facilitating representation in key decision-making spaces. This has enabled communities to effectively engage with authorities, advocate for their rights, and push for policies that promote inclusive and equitable development.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADES

One of our most impactful areas of work has been in project management and capacity building for participatory upgrading and housing projects. By working closely with community members and other stakeholders, we have advanced sustainable and inclusive housing solutions that address the unique needs of

each locality. These projects have not only improved living conditions but have also reinforced the importance of community involvement in the planning and implementation of urban development initiatives.

COMMITMENT TO A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY

At the core of Planact's mission is our unwavering commitment to fostering a society free from discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, income, nationality, religion, age, disability, and HIV/AIDS status. We believe that an inclusive approach to development is key to building a more just and equitable society.

As we reflect on the progress made over the past year, we acknowledge that our achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our team, the resilience of the communities we serve, and the invaluable support of our partners. Looking ahead, we remain committed to deepening our impact, strengthening participatory governance, and ensuring that local development is inclusive, transparent, and sustainable.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to our journey. Together, we continue to build a future where every citizen has a voice in shaping the development of their communities.

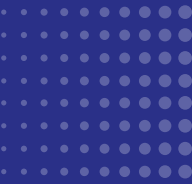
Frederick Kusambiza – Kiingi



Executive Director



PROGRAMMES



RESPONSIBLE LIVING ENVIRONMENTS

DIGITAL INCLUSION

Digital solutions are a powerful tool to provide data to shape settlement development and design through responsive policy instruments that enable and unlock community-driven solutions. Planact's digital addressing is an approach that enables inclusive, sustainable resilient settlements that have improved service delivery and socio-economic outcomes.

Scoonplaas Digital Addressing

- The Digital Addressing Pilot in Skoonplaas was completed and the addresses were verified by Google Earth.
- The digital addresses were fixed on plates to mark the physical addresses of all the residents and businesses in the settlements.
- Skoonplaas became the first informal settlement in South Africa to receive digital addresses incorporated on Google Earth and Maps.

Thembelihle Digital Addressing

- The digital addressing project in the City of Johannesburg began with a pilot in Thembelihle.
- Thembelihle is one of the largest informal settlements and a long-standing community partner of Planact.
- The mapping and digital addressing were done by a team of youth from the community that were capacitated on how to use the Address Maker technology.

Scoonplaas Digital Address



Thembelihle Plus Code Address Board Fixing



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Warming in cities has severe impacts on human health and well-being, affecting the natural and physical environment and compounding water and food shortages with significant economic implications. As climate change intensifies in cities across the world, Planact continues to deepen its understanding of the effects of this change and how best to plan for a future characterised by heightened risks and vulnerabilities. .



Setting up a heat monitor in Primrose

Urban Heat Monitoring Campaign

- In the summer of 2021-2022, Planact and its community partners participated in an Urban Heat Monitoring campaign that measured the levels and effects of heat stress on informal settlements.
- In April 2023, the World Bank hosted a three-day conference with 60 local and international delegates comprising municipal officials, scholars, and environmental activists. Planact was invited to participate in the conference as a partner, and its strong linkages with community structures across Gauteng and other provinces and its established relationships with this vital constituency.
- Planact organised a site visit to one of the sites where the Urban Heat Monitoring Campaign took place. The entire delegation went on a site walk in Kliptown and had an opportunity to engage with community members.
- Officials from metro municipalities and climate change specialists were able to interact with Kliptown community members and obtain first-hand accounts of the stresses caused by extreme weather patterns.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS INITIATIVES

Planact's theme on sustainable livelihoods is designed to confront and respond to the high levels of unemployment prevalent in communities and focus on initiatives that lead to empowered communities, improved socio-economic benefits, lower levels of hunger and poverty and inclusive economic growth.



ABCD Workshops

- Community partners in Gauteng are being capacitated in the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) programme as part of Planact's Sustainable Livelihood Initiative.
- The ABCD workshop series is being implemented in partnership with the Gauteng provincial government to promote community-level empowerment and development.
- Communities are capacitated to identify assets, skills and knowledge that already exist in their settlements and can be used to economically uplift the community.
- The ABCD programme cannot replace state investments into informal settlements but rather is a strategy for communities to meet the government halfway in development efforts.

Umnotho Village Partnership

- In the first week of August, Planact took some members of the Watville Environmental, Tourism and Agricultural Forum for a site visit to Umnotho village in Muldersdrift.
- Umnotho Village is a community-driven project promoting economic empowerment at the community level.
- The visit allowed the Watville Forum to learn Umnotho Village's model of a community bank with a smart complex, including 2000 mixed-income housing units.
- The lessons from the Umnotho Village model were taken back to Watville by the forum and incorporated into their larger strategy to promote mixed-use and sustainable development in communities.



Greening in Wattville

- In honour of Arbour Day, Planact and the Wattville community planted fruit trees to promote healthier environments in marginalised communities.
- The Environmental Forum was established by a group of unemployed youth in Wattville to promote and advocate for the issues of environmental conservation, tourism, and urban agriculture.
- The forum planted ten fruit trees in the Thamboville informal settlement to begin the greening process, which is anticipated to continue and gather further impetus.
- The greening exercise was the first step in many planned initiatives that included the creation of a nursery in the community, and the decision to adopt the nearby wetland.



Community Facilitator Spotlight

- In 2022, three community leaders who work closely with Planact were admitted into a community development course at the University of Johannesburg.
- This is an 18-month-long course that equips students with the skills to address development and service delivery issues in their communities.



Zanele is a Community Facilitator based in the City of Ekurhuleni. She is a recent graduate from the University of Johannesburg with a Certificate in Community Development and Leadership. This video shares her inspiring journey of how she is using the opportunity to study, which she never had in her earlier years, to make an impact in her community.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEsL6r3BW-g&t=11s>

Zanele Siko



Balungile is a Community Facilitator in one of the settlements in the inner city of Johannesburg. She recently graduated at the University of Johannesburg with a certificate in Community Development and Leadership. She says that through the Asivikelane campaign, she is now able to participate meaningfully in the governance of her community.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcYXewENC28&t=1s>

Balungile Mntaka



Noluthando Geja is a community facilitator in Itireleng and surrounding informal settlements. Her work under the Asivikelane campaign is to monitor service delivery in her community. She often goes above and beyond to address the needs of the residents. She believes in the power of collective action. This video shares one of her projects where she uses available assets to make a difference in her community.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8UMnpweQN8&t=1s>

Noluthando Geja



Julia is a Community Facilitator and a service delivery champion in her community. She is a recent graduate from the University of Johannesburg and her projects focus on the asset-based community development methodology. This inspiring video shares her journey from a community development activist to becoming a certified practitioner.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Or9HK1YZFU>

Julia Phora



Nonhlanhla Mabunga, a community development activist, university graduate, and Asivikelane Community Facilitator, oversees basic service delivery in her community. The video showcases her inspiring journey advocating for asset-based community development. Her unwavering dedication to uplifting her community is evident in the projects she undertakes with a group of ladies in Lawley Station.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GlwBwodrVs

Nonhlanhla Mabunga

STRENGTHENED GRASSROOTS VOICE

Public Participation

Providing communities with a voice and a say in their futures through participatory approaches builds community development and cohesion. Promoting and advocating for democratic, accountable, and transparent governance is central to Planact's Strengthened Grassroots programmes.



Clusters of Community Agency

- In 2022, Planact grew its Cluster work in new areas and created clusters in new municipalities and in a new province.
- The growth of the cluster approach is moving towards the long-term aspirations of the clusters to advocate for their development concerns at provincial and national levels.
- A cluster in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality has been established. This cluster is made up of 4 informal settlements in Middelburg all slated for relocation according to the municipal upgrading plans.
- Collective agency work has begun in the Northwest province with the creation of a cluster in Rustenburg Local Municipality.
- In the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, a cluster is being established with 6 informal settlements looking to advocate for basic services and upgrading processes in their communities under the Roof is my Right campaign.

Integrated Development Plans, Budgets and Procurement

- In February 2023, Planact hosted budget and procurement training for community facilitators in Gauteng.
- This is a continuation of the basic service delivery monitoring work that is already occurring under the Asivikelane campaign.
- The capacitation sessions on procurement moved the community monitoring efforts by empowering participants to monitor basic service delivery from contract to output.
- Community partners were able to extend the matrix of accountability by including the contractors who were awarded the tender to provide service(s) to communities.



District Development Model

- Planact collaborated with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to conduct a social audit of the District Development Model in Limpopo.
- The study occurred in the 6 local municipalities within the Waterberg District municipality, engaging and involving NGOs and CSOs in creating the Waterberg District One Plan.
- Planact held interviews and focus groups with 113 organisations in the Waterberg District to gauge their levels of participation and perceptions of the District One Plan.
- Planact produced a report on the study's assessment of the inclusivity of the Waterberg District One Plan and made recommendations to address gaps.

Petitions and Policy Submissions

- Planact supported the Waterworks community in submitting a petition on the lack of adequate water provision leading to continuous water shortages in the settlement to the City of Johannesburg and associated entity Johannesburg Water.
- The petition was acknowledged by Johannesburg Water and the entity committed to addressing the situation as soon as possible.
- The Ekurhuleni cluster commented on the city's draft by-law on the Management of Informal Settlement and Land Invasion.
- The submission from the cluster was acknowledged and the community is following the process to ensure their contributions are included.



CAMPAIGNS

Roof is My Right

- The Roof is My Right (RiMR) campaign saw exciting new strides in 2022.
- The community of Tsakane ext. 21 partnered with the City of Ekurhuleni in a self-re-blocking initiative that accelerated their upgrading process. The successful self-re-blocking has initiated the electrification of the settlement.
- In Emalahleni, the Mgevana community warded off the threat of illegal eviction with the knowledge they received from workshops under the RiMR campaign.
- In Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (STML), all the communities in the cluster have been identified for relocation. The RiMR work in STML will revolve around advocating for transparency around the municipality's UISP processes.



Asivikelane

- The Asivikelane campaign maintained its rapid pace and growth, celebrating its milestone 30th release in 2022.
- The Asivikelane campaign saw rapid growth this year with additional communities incorporated in all 3 metros in Gauteng.
- The expansion in Tshwane resulted in Planact, and community representatives, being invited to engage monthly with the City's Rudimentary Services Unit to discuss reports.
- The success of the campaign also generated interest from the European Union who came for site visits in various communities where the campaign is being carried out.

EVENTS

State of the City Address

- Planact was invited to participate in the State of the City (SOCA) address and comment on the current street naming policy.
- The Digital Addressing project was at the forefront of Planact's presentation to the city.

Thembelihle Digital Addressing Launch

- In March 2024, Planact launched the Digital Addressing pilot project in Thembelihle an informal settlement in the City of Johannesburg (CoJ).
- The launch officially introduced the Plus Codes (generated from Google GPS coordinates) to the greater community, private sector stakeholders, and City of Johannesburg officials.
- The success of the launch event laid the groundwork for discussions with the City and other organisations about collaborations around Digital Addressing.



Mike with Former CoJ Mayor



Cutting of ribbon launch of digital add in Thembelihle April 2023



National Convening of Partners under Asivikelane

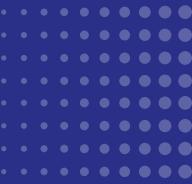
- Planact attended the national convening of all partner organisations under the Asivikelane campaign in February 2023.
- Planact presented their work over the past year and strategised with their partner organisations on ways to improve, develop and grow the campaign.
- Several engagements were held in the last quarter of 2023, including a meeting with all stakeholders held in Cape Town in September where the Hub concept was discussed and formally adopted.
- Key focus areas were identified for each Metro as opposed to working on a series of issues, for example, sanitation with the City of Johannesburg and waste management with the City of Tshwane.

Local Government Partnership Dialogue

- Planact is a member of a new civil society network formed by organisations working in local governance across the country.
- This network aims to leverage the experience of the different organisations to engage collectively with local government on high-priority community issues.



FINANCIALS



FINANCIAL NARRATIVE REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Planact's administrative costs amounted to R799,463 during the 2023 financial year. This amount included all fixed operational overhead costs. These costs represent an overall 3.3% increase on the previous financial year.

The organization 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 2023 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.

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HUMAN RESOURCE

Planact's staff complement had one resignation and one new appointment in the programme staff during the 2023 financial year. Overall, the organization has limited human capacity. To address this gap, Planact continued with the engagement of community volunteers to provide support at different intervals.

Staff continued to adapt to a substantially new way of operating both internally and externally to achieve the programme goals. In this regard Planact's engagement with community volunteers continues to develop and remains critical to implementing the organisational programmes.

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

The Planact staff complement remained at ten staff for the 2023 year:

Frederick Kusambiza-Kiingi –	Executive Director
Mike Makwela –	Senior Program Coordinator
Shumani Luruli –	Program Coordinator
Siphiwe Segodi –	Program Coordinator
Wetu Memela –	Assistant Program Coordinator
Chelsea Ndovu-Nachamba –	Information and Resource Management Coordinator
Bafana Tshabalala –	Assistant Program Coordinator
Hlengiwe Mbambo –	Assistant Program Coordinator
Spiros Paxinos –	Financial Manager
Tshidi Morotolo –	Senior Administrator

The staff was augmented by community field assistants and volunteers.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

There were two staff members that were provided with financial assistance to further their studies – a Diploma in Public Law at University of the Western Cape and an Advanced Diploma in Communication Management at the University of Johannesburg, and they successfully completed their studies.

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

The programmes were managed and implemented by eight 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 Senior Programme Manager supported programme activities and engaged in 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 2023 financial year. This was possible due to continued support from our four major donors and new partnerships being established, resulting in our financial support maintaining a high level at R7.5 million. Expenditure for this period amounted to R7.8 million.



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