

PPT Profile: Participatory Community Action Plan (Sustainable Livelihood Focus) for Informal Settlements at Kenville (Mysore and Temple) and Redcliffe in eThekweni Municipality

as at November 2011

PURPOSE: a) To introduce the Participatory Community Action Planning (PCAP) process focusing on Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) interventions within selected pilot project areas; b) increase participation and social capital formation, especially amongst poor and vulnerable groups; c) develop action plans for proposed interventions and document these; d) assist the groups to engage with relevant municipal line departments to communicate their sector plans ; and e) based on the project review and identified positive and negative impacts, determine potential for up-scaling and replication of this process.



DESCRIPTION: The programme commenced in October 2010 and was completed in August 2011. Kenville (Mysore and Temple) and Redcliffe informal settlements were selected from informal settlements prioritised for eThekweni Interim Services Projects to serve as pilots for PCAP with a primary focus on SL strategies.

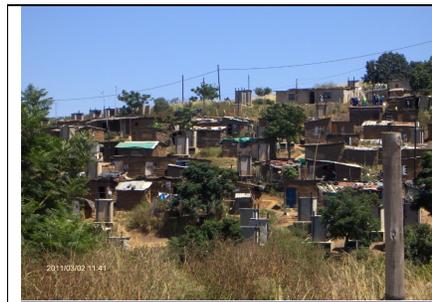
Initial engagement and setup included a meeting with the informal settlement development committees, mass meetings and sector groups. The process secured buy-in from the community and leadership. Local development committees also gained a better understanding into SL principles with regards to various sectors.

Initial participative workshops included community orientation on SL approaches and methodology and understanding of key principles (assets, vulnerabilities, stakeholders, shocks and stresses) defining the main sectors for the next phase.

Sector action planning workshops included participatory planning processes by means of a series of participative planning sessions to develop a sector plan to bring about desired change.

TOTAL PROGRAMME VALUE: R65,200 funded by eThekweni Municipality for preparation and conducting PCAP process.

KENVILLE AND REDCLIFFE INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS :



Kenville Informal Settlement Area View



Participatory workshop at Kenville



Participatory workshop at Redcliffe

SERVICE PROVIDERS: In-house facilitation since this was a pilot project, but in the future, outsourced facilitators may be utilized. One of the challenges experienced was the lack of community facilities in Kenville where meetings and planning sessions could be conducted, requiring the hire of a marquee and other equipment.

PPT ROLE: PPT initiated, conceptualized and coordinated the programme from the initial stages to completion including monitoring and evaluation.

STAKEHOLDERS: eThekweni Municipality, Kenville (Mysore and Temple) community, Redcliffe community, and PPT.

MAIN SECTOR ACTION PLANS DEVELOPED: the following are the main sector plans that were developed during this process:

- **Tavern and spaza shop owners:** develop their relationship with the local police station to protect the owners from criminals who pose as police and confiscate stock.
- **Early child development and crèche:** crèche operators in both areas require assistance to meet required Early Child Development (ECD) standards for example constituting their organization and register with Department of Social Development and other resource organisations .
- **Health sector plan:** to develop strategies to mitigate against vulnerability to serious illnesses since unskilled people depend on their wellbeing to generate income.
- **Home based care plan:** to enhance home based care through additional training, formalizing organizations and applying for

funding for stipends.

- **Community gardens:** access to food security should be encouraged through training in organic farming and maximizing the available space.
- **Fashion design and dressmaking groups:** the plan encourages shared learning for more experience groups to assist those who are less experience and working spaces to avoid disturbance while working at home.

MAIN SUCCESSES: the following are the main successes:

- Communities and participants were responsive and enthusiastic which was demonstrated by high levels of participation and commitment over a period of nearly a year.
- There was full buy-in and co-operation from ward councilors, ward development committees and local development committees.
- Participative planning workshops provided a good forum for learning and information sharing.
- A total of 12 community meetings and participative action planning workshops were held in the two pilot areas involving 301 local informal settlement residents involved in various livelihoods activities.
- Issues affecting their daily lives were raised and addressed via the workshop processes.
- Realistic and relevant action plans were produced across five sectors in both areas which have the potential to make a positive livelihoods impact and which can assist local residents to reduce vulnerabilities and optimize local assets. There are also action implications arising from the plans for the Municipality and other authorities.
- The PCAP process provided a platform to help address and in some cases solve challenges relating to service delivery limitations (e.g. temporary local employment (labour) opportunities; sensitizing residents to services trade offs such as 'narrow' interim access roads).
- Local informal / micro entrepreneurs came to a realization that they need to keep better records of daily transactions in order to grow and optimize their businesses (e.g. in order to monitor actual profit and set aside some income to replenish stock).

MAIN LESSONS / IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER ROLLOUT WITHIN ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY:

1. Participative Community Action Planning has demonstrated value and should be pursued and rolled out as part of a structured programme within eThekweni Municipality to improve the livelihoods of poor residents.
2. A central coordinating structure is required in the Municipality for informal settlement PCAP in order to oversee procurement, monitor progress and facilitate internal communication within the Municipality so as to guide action on key issues and provide support where necessary (e.g. taking supportive action on informal taverns, supporting local crèche formation, prioritization key emergency infrastructure / services).
3. Where possible, the process should be initiated in advance of infrastructure and housing investment so as to: a) inform and optimize such investment (e.g. by informing local planning and design considerations); b) establish improved local communication and understanding; c) build local commitment, social capital and 'self help' (instead of a paradigm of pure reliance on government).
4. Where possible, the participative planning process should not be confined only to livelihoods issues, but should also be utilized to identify and prioritise infrastructure and other municipal investment / responses (e.g. health care, public transport, enterprise support, waste removal, fire protection etc.).
5. Increase the budget provision per settlement to R50,000.
6. Ensure adequate facilities are available for meetings and planning sessions.
7. Take into consideration the impact of elections in scheduling future projects (i.e. resultant delays).

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