

Planact

Annual Report

2009 - 2010



Identity Statement

Planact is a non-governmental development organisation working mainly in the urban areas of Gauteng. The organisation is committed to local development for the poor within an integrated framework. We aim for strategic interventions in the areas of local government transformation, and community development that can result in social upliftment. This we do through networking with likeminded organisations, training, technical advice and assistance, research and advocacy at policy levels.

Mission

Planact supports and mobilises community processes that enhance good governance at the local level to improve people's habitable environment in ways that alleviate poverty.

Vision

People who lack access to habitable environments will be able to defend existing gains and advance the collective interest of the poor and marginalised.

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Message from the Chairperson



The year under review has been interesting yet also challenging. A change of government at the national level, on the back of a commitment to prioritise the improvement of lives of those stuck in the cycle of poverty across the country. The changing face of poverty, from being predominantly rural-based to the increasing advent of urban poverty, is a paradigm shift that makes the work of Planact as relevant, critical and urgent as ever. The migration of people from the rural hinterland as well as from the subcontinent into South African cities, mostly in Gauteng, in search of economic opportunity and better social services, only to find themselves in all forms of slum dwelling with broken dreams, means we have our work cut out for us. We can draw on the knowledge base and networks that we have built over the past 25 years, and the capability and energy of the current team, to wage another phase of the war on poverty aimed at realising improved development for the poor communities in which we work.

Our maturing national democracy was demonstrated through the holding of successful fourth national and provincial elections. A renewed national commitment to engage grassroots structures and ensure accountability implies an exciting challenge to those who work with community structures in pursuit of strengthening local democracy and accountability. Violent protests that seem to have peaked in 2009 demonstrated that while service delivery was cited as the cause of the protests, there are other underlying challenges that need to be addressed, key among these being community engagement and associated community dynamics. Gauteng endured the lion's share of such protests while North West, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga also had a significant number of protests. Clearly the kind of violence seen in these protests cannot be condoned. The challenge is to channel the energy of frustrated people into better engagement without dampening the impact of their voice in influencing policy and decision making. A leading example of meaningful engagement that we have facilitated has been building the capacity of community structures to engage with one another and with the state. For example, having worked with Ward Councillors in the City of Johannesburg, the establishment of a Community



Development Committee in Orlando East/Noordgesig enables block and street committees, political parties and other community-based organisations to engage meaningfully and could be replicated in other communities and municipalities. The local leadership training programme which is being accredited by the Local Government Sector Education Training Authority (LGSETA) enables us to build the capacity of community leaders to engage with development and sustainable livelihood processes more effectively.

The dual nature of South Africa's development has led to some categorising us as a middle income country, and this has led to some donor countries withdrawing their support to South Africa to focus their work in poorer countries on the African continent. Planact has unfortunately suffered from such withdrawals with two main donors ending their support to the organisation. Within this context we anticipate that the year ahead will be difficult. However, the resilience that the organisation has demonstrated at different times over the past 25 years will certainly carry us through. A robust programme of work, supported by those donors who have remained in the country, together with some cost recovery projects will sustain the organisation well into the future. This has been, and will continue to be, inspired by a great staff team and board who have dedicated their lives to the worthy cause on which the organisation and the country have embarked.

On behalf of Planact I convey my heartfelt gratitude to all the donors who have worked with us in the past and present, to other partners in civil society and elsewhere, and to municipalities that have shown confidence in us by appointing us to assist them in their own difficult governance and development journey. We hope to continue working with all of you well into the future, thus deriving mutual benefit from our activities. Most importantly, I would like to thank the staff and board who have ensured that this ship continues to sail through a challenging yet exciting journey.

Thank you


Seana Nkhahle
Chairperson



A number of key developments in the South African political landscape were observed during the last year, bringing both new opportunities and challenges. In April 2009 the fourth democratic national elections took place, with the dominant political party, the African National Congress (ANC), once again securing the leadership of the country, but also bringing considerable changes in leadership within the ANC. The emergence of new political parties ushered in renewed vibrancy in the political landscape thus making the 2009 elections the most competitive in a long time.

A major reorganisation of cabinet and government departments followed the elections, bringing about the newly formed National Planning Commission and a Monitoring and Evaluation competency. The former Housing Department became the Department of Human Settlements, and the former Department of Provincial and Local Government became the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA). New agencies were established including the Housing Development Agency (HDA), intended to assist government in acquiring land for housing development, and the National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP), intended to provide support for informal settlement upgrading processes. The Local Government Turn-Around Strategy (LGTAS) was introduced to address poor municipal performance, emphasising the need to improve capacity and public participation practices. The Ministry of Monitoring and Evaluation introduced an outcomes approach to monitor specific areas of performance, in order to further improve service delivery. Particularly relevant for Planact's work is the area of human settlements development with an increased focus on informal settlement upgrading, delivery standards, accreditation of municipalities, backyard rental systems, bulk infrastructure, funding coordination, and land access. With regard to Local Government, there is an emphasis on improving intergovernmental relations, municipal financing, improved Integrated Development Planning (IDP) processes, budgeting processes, and skills development.

These national changes are important considerations since they aim to bring about changes in policy and practice, particularly in the areas of planning and monitoring, human settlements, and cooperative governance. While these changes have created opportunities for civil society to influence policy and programmes through



various advocacy strategies, they have also brought new challenges, including local level conflict among community members aligned to different political parties and adhering to different strategies. This period has seen increased disillusionment with the pace of service delivery and engagement with communities resulting in heightened levels of protest action. The challenges and changes introduced have reinforced the need for Planact's role in empowering community-based organisations and local government structures, so as to ensure more meaningful participation in governance.

A major challenge facing Planact has been the decline in international donor funding opportunities, as well as local funding sources. Two major long term donors have changed their country and programme focus and as a result Planact will no longer benefit from these funding sources. At the same time, access to government and corporate funding opportunities remains a challenge, although we continue to pursue these possibilities.

Planact's response has been to engage vigorously in a review of our funding and programme strategies. This includes identifying and pursuing new funding opportunities and a stronger focus on developing partnerships with community-based organisations, social movements, municipalities and government support agencies. Planact has made considerable progress in terms of its application for accreditation status from the Local Government Sector Education Training Authority (LGSETA). The process of realigning Planact's training materials according to specific unit standards has served as the impetus for plans to embark on an initiative to establish a fully-fledged training programme, focusing on participatory governance and leadership, aimed at strengthening the capacity of municipal officials, councillors and civil society leaders through a series of regular training sessions.

As part of our revised working strategy, we are expanding our geographical base to strengthen our work beyond the borders of Gauteng Province to reach those municipalities requiring greater support, as identified through recent government studies and plans including the Local Government Turn Around Strategy (LGTAS), as well as the review of informal settlement upgrading pilot projects conducted by the National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP) within the Department of Human Settlements. Planact has gained valuable experience in the areas of human settlement development and participatory governance for more than 25 years and we believe that it is time to share this experience more widely and to further expand our learning and cooperation in different provinces and within the SADC region.

I would like to thank our donors for providing the necessary support to ensure that Planact was able to continue advancing its mission of supporting and mobilising community processes to improve people's habitable environments in ways that alleviate poverty. Special thanks are due to Board Members and fellow staff members who have remained committed and dedicated to ensuring that our contribution remains relevant and of a high standard in terms of knowledge-generation and knowledge-sharing to influence opinion and policy. We have also had the privilege of working with student interns and volunteers who have generously contributed their skills and services to support our work. We continue to appreciate the value of our partnerships with fellow civil society organisations, community leaders, government representatives, and academics, all of whom provide a supportive environment and strengthen our joint efforts at working towards a more just and equitable society.

Hermine Engel
Acting Executive Director



Introduction

Key features that have continued to define Planact's identity include its role as a significant resource for poor, marginalised communities; its value as a learning and knowledge-generating organisation; and its ability to influence opinion and national policy. The recent documentation of Planact's twenty-year history, *Making Towns and Cities Work for People: Planact in South Africa: 1985-2005*, (Planact, 2009) highlights these features as follows¹:

"Planact was able to help us simplify and clarify our issues ... [providing] insight into transformation issues, and helped us understand the technical issues." (Abie Nyalunga, community leader)

"Planact has always been self-consciously reflective the impetus being challenges arising from the context" (Lauren Royston, former staff member)

"If the origin of Planact was about knowledge ... above all its significance was a way of constructing knowledge not defined by academia, capital, or the state. [The] questions that drove us emanated from communities ..." (Mark Swilling, founding member)

"Many national policies on housing, development planning and local government have had direct input from Planact staff, former staff and community leaders with whom Planact has worked, and many policies have also been indirectly influenced by Planact's practice. Planact has continued to be involved in putting those very policies into practice, and testing the conditions in which they can be made workable as well as stumbling upon the barriers that make them unworkable." (Rebecca Himlin, former Director)

¹ Extracts from Lauren Royston's chapter, "A short history of Planact and its work" (pp3-51).

These features have been sustained and strengthened during the past year allowing Planact to remain true to its rich and proud legacy. This was possible because of the dedication of staff, board members and interns, as well as continuing strong relationships with fellow civil society organisations, development consultants, academia, government sectors, and local and international donor organisations. This report reflects on the key achievements and challenges experienced with regards to our programmes in community development and empowerment; participatory local governance; research and evaluation; and policy analysis and advocacy.

Community Development and Empowerment

Sustainable human settlements



Planact recently embarked on a new project supported by the Ford Foundation to enhance the informal settlement upgrading and regularisation programme by promoting effective community participation in the planning and monitoring of the programme. Key objectives of the project are to strengthen the capacity of community members to participate in the planning and monitoring processes, and to provide municipalities, community members and development practitioners with models and lessons for effective participatory development of the programme. Planact's role will involve social facilitation and training for community members in terms of the upgrading and regularisation policy and processes, the rights and responsibilities of different stakeholders, and community-based planning and performance monitoring systems.

Since January 2010 the project has been unfolding through meetings with municipal officials and representatives of the National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP); a literature review process to analyse policy documentation; recent informal settlement upgrading reviews; and a site selection process. We have engaged with the

City of Johannesburg municipality; Protea South Landless People's Movement (LPM); Lesedi local municipality; Randfontein local municipality; Westrand District municipality; Midvaal municipality; and Emalahleni local municipality in Mpumalanga Province. Through these interactions we have gained insight into the challenges facing communities and municipalities, as well as the intergovernmental challenges affecting these processes. The upcoming period will focus on intensive engagements with selected municipalities and communities in order to use these as learning sites.

Planact has also interacted with organisations and networks working in this area, examining in particular the work of the National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP) and its review of previous pilot projects and the recommendations put forward which include strengthening capacity support to municipalities in implementing informal settlement upgrading; Urban Landmark's work on approaches to securing tenure; Afesis-Corplan's work on managed land settlement; and drawing on the insights of the Socio Economic Rights Institute (SERI) with regard to forced removals/evictions. By engaging with policy documentation and the approaches put forward by other organisations and institutions, Planact is accumulating a wealth of information resources to share with community members and government structures.

Based on these and broader human settlements development insights, we are developing a training manual as part of our civic education focus on sustainable human settlements. A draft manual has been developed which explores the Housing Chapter in the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) process, including relevant legislation and policy developments, and information on funding arrangements, including the subsidy application process, incremental settlement programmes (such as the enhanced People's Housing Policy and informal settlement upgrading and regularisation), as well as social and rental housing options. The manual will be developed further to help communities organise more strategically so as to access suitable programmes for their environments.

During the first six months of this reporting period, Planact explored the process of continued longer term support to the communities of Zandspruit and Sol Plaatjies (in Johannesburg), in order to develop a coordinated approach to development in the areas. The main challenges in these communities included uncoordinated developments in the area and extreme divisions within the communities, making it difficult to implement a coordination strategy. Accordingly, Planact continued to support different community groups in these communities based on their direct requests for specific support.

Creating sustainable livelihoods



Planact has provided on-going support to the food gardening project in Vosloorus Extension 28 (in Ekurhuleni Municipality) involving the Rethabile Cooperative and Masizakhe Home Based Care (MBHC) local groups focusing largely on strengthening organisational systems as well acquiring and developing the necessary gardening implements and office equipment. These activities form part of an overall exit strategy to position the project effectively for future sustainability since financial support from the National Development Agency (NDA) will soon be coming to an end. This will also limit Planact's involvement in the project.

Through a broader action research process involving reflection sessions and interviews with community members involved in the project, specific areas for improvement were identified, particularly the aspect of skills transfer in project and financial management. In terms of the specific gardening activities, the gardening area has been extended and an irrigation system implemented, allowing for a greater yield of vegetables to be distributed among project members and HIV/AIDs affected families, and sold to the broader community.

The Greenhouse Project continued to support skills development in gardening techniques to consolidate knowledge gained through the range of workshops provided for the joint cooperative members. Exchange visits to agricultural projects in Sebokeng allowed for insights into different gardening and management approaches. Planact staff and cooperative members also attended workshops on sustainable agriculture and cooperatives organised by the Department of Agriculture. These were considered valuable in terms of encouraging communities to organise themselves better to initiate projects and identify land that is potentially available for agricultural activities.

Together with the Greenhouse Project, Planact became involved in the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) – Phase 2 Non-State Sector Programme, initiated by the Presidency through the National Department of Public Works and supported by the Integrated Development Trust (IDT) – an intermediary government development agency to support the implementation of specific programmes. The EPWP Phase 2 programme is aimed at generating work opportunities for unemployed persons through the non-state sector including NGOs, CBOs and small businesses. Through the joint involvement of Planact and Greenhouse between November 2009 and early 2010, 270 community members in the Vosloorus and Sebokeng community

projects derived benefit through work experience and related daily stipends for their agricultural food gardening activities. Planact and Greenhouse provided management and monitoring support for the community projects.

Work with the Orlando East/Noordgesig CDC (discussed in more detail later) has also included a strong focus on exploring sustainable livelihoods/local economic development initiatives with support from World Vision and InWent, engaging community members in a process to understand the Participatory Appraisal of Competitive Advantage (PACA) methodology. Additional input was provided by Gauteng Enterprise Development Agency, Johannesburg Tourism Company, Johannesburg Economic Department, University of Johannesburg SMME Department, and local SMMEs. These engagements have further encouraged the CDC members to develop a tourist route for the area. Support was also provided to informal traders affected by development plans for the Orlando Station area, who had experienced continual harassment by the Metro Police. After a series of discussions mediated by Planact, no further incidences of harassment have been reported and some informal traders have gained access to a more centrally located trading site.

HIV / AIDS community-based support

Planact has continued to work directly with community-based organisations focused on HIV and AIDS and has also mainstreamed this focus in our other projects. Our direct support to community-based organisations has included supporting activities in Sol Plaatjies and in Vosloorus.



In Sol Plaatjies, the Phumulela cooperative, the Jozi Ihlomile volunteers and iSizimela CBO have been supported in terms of strategising activities to support HIV/AIDS-affected families through information/education, care, nutritional support, and developing new strategies to address HIV/AIDS-related issues within the community. In Vosloorus, the Masizakhe Home Based Care (MHBC) group continues to be supported by Planact to strategise and manage their activities effectively to continue providing home-based care and nutritional support to HIV/AIDS infected and affected families.

The MHBC has been able to acquire much needed medical supplies as well as office equipment to improve its services and has continued to identify and provide beneficiaries with vegetable parcels. Planact also provided support with developing and submitting a funding proposal to Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality's "Grant in Aid" programme which resulted in a financial contribution from the municipality to support the activities of the MHBC. In terms of materials development, work continues on improving the HIV/AIDS Community Assessment Guide so that it becomes an effective tool for communities wishing to strategise and develop effective approaches to address HIV and AIDS.

Planact has continued the process of mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in all our projects through awareness-raising regarding the implications of HIV and AIDS, and incorporating ways of addressing the range of consequences through different projects that fall under the broad spectrum of sustainable human settlements, sustainable livelihoods, local governance, and research and advocacy.

Organisational capacity development



Organisational development support has been extended to seven organisations across four communities – the Orlando East/Noordgesig CDC and Youth Forums; Vosloorus Food Gardening Cooperative (Rethabile and MHBC); Sol Plaatjies (iSizimela CBO and Phumulela cooperative); and Zandspruit Community Development Forum. Regular on-going support has been provided to these organisations to build their capacity to develop well established CBOs. This targeted ongoing support covering a range of aspects, including leadership, organisational management systems, fundraising, and registration support, has proven to be valuable in strengthening the CBOs leading to better results for their work within their communities. The materials development aspect of this work has involved a process of reviewing and consolidating ideas for new organisational development training materials, focusing on project management, leadership, conflict resolution, gender dynamics and team building.



Participatory Local Governance

Training on local governance

The local governance capacity building programme which focuses on various aspects of how local government works and ways in which to enhance participation, has continued to attract interest from municipalities and community leaders. A total of 338 ward committee members and councillors were trained during this period.

At the request of the Vulindlela Academy at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), a training workshop on Integrated Development Planning (IDP) was conducted for 20 students as part of the Young Professionals (YP) programme introduced by the Siyenza Manje (SM) programme (a national government initiative). In October 2009, as requested by the City of Johannesburg municipality, induction training for 103 ward committee members was facilitated. Training covered topics such as democracy, spheres of government, IDP, budgets, and the roles and responsibilities of ward committees. Through the USAID-RTI based initiative, the Local Government Support Program (LGSP), provided focused training on how local government works and ward committee roles and responsibilities. Planact facilitated workshops for three municipalities (Cederberg Local Municipality and Bergrivier Local Municipality in the Western Cape; and Ndwendwe Local Municipality in Kwa-zuluNatal). Community-based training workshops on governance issues were held with community groups in Orlando East and Noordgesig, and included the Community Development Committee (CDC), the ward committee and the youth forum, providing a total of 65 participants.



Feedback received on the training was overwhelmingly positive, particularly in terms of the useful and relevant content as well as the participatory facilitation style. Participants indicated that they were able to practically apply the knowledge gained in their roles as municipal officials/trainees, councillors or ward committee members, as well as members of community-based organisations who felt that they better understood local government structures and processes. This has provided the basis for strategising more effectively in terms of engaging government.

Planact's application to receive accreditation through the Local Government Skills and Training Authority (LGSETA) received renewed attention. We participated in workshops hosted by the Siyakhula Trust to support the process of realigning Planact's local governance training manual to meet the current unit standard criteria of the LGSETA programmes.

Enhancing public participation

In terms of our longer term, intensive support for specific communities in engaging with government on development priorities, Planact has continued to work with the community of Orlando East and the neighbouring Noordgesig area to strengthen their abilities and opportunities to engage with government on development initiatives in the area. To this end, we have continued to work closely with the Community Development Committee (CDC) – an umbrella body comprised of a range of community-based organisations, political parties and local businesses to learn from each other and to develop a more coordinated approach to raise community issues with regards to development needs and planning together with government and business sectors. Strategic planning sessions have been supported to revisit the vision and mission of the CDC, the constitution, community relationships, and programmes and activities. The CDC has also embarked on supporting the establishment and training of block committees to enhance community participation in the area. Community members were engaged in a successful workshop with the municipality's environmental units - City Parks and Pikitup – sharing information on the City's environmental programmes and plans for Orlando East and Noordgesig. The CDC subsequently established a subcommittee focusing on environmental issues.



World Vision has also been active in providing support for strengthening the CDC and economic development opportunities. Exploratory meetings have been held with representatives from the Japanese Volunteer Centre (JVC) to explore the possibility of a partnership with Planact and the CDC to support the development of the area. To date this has included providing socio-economic information on the area,

discussions and site visits. More recently, discussions have been held with the Father Huddleston Memorial Centre in Orlando East to explore possible cooperation particularly in terms of youth development.

Work with the Youth Forums in these areas has involved intensive organisational development support in terms of programme planning and leadership. Support for specific activities in this period has largely focused on environmental projects involving cleaning and greening projects in three wards geared towards a competition for fundraising purposes (Bontle ke Botho – BkB) organised by the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The key challenge faced in further pursuing this activity is financial resources to organise and mobilise community members more effectively.

Planact has also started exploring the possibility of including a new area, Bantu Bonke located in Midvaal municipality, for longer term integrated support. This possibility developed as a result of Planact's participation research project in the area with community members expressing interest in Planact's support. Positive exploratory discussions have been held with community leaders and the councillor. A sustainable livelihoods analysis was conducted in February 2010 to better understand the socio-economic situation and community dynamics in the area which will serve as the basis for determining the kind of support required.

During this reporting period, Planact (as lead partner) and the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) successfully completed the development of the Public Participation Framework for the Gauteng Province as commissioned by the Gauteng Department of Local Government (DLG). Positive feedback was received during the final presentations to senior DLG staff in April and June 2009. As part of taking forward the implementation process, based on recommendations contained in the final report, Planact was invited to give a presentation at the Provincial Public Participation Dialogue session in March 2010. The presentation shared the key findings and recommendations and continued the discussion with a broader audience, including municipal officials and civil society representatives.



Research and Evaluation

Research on participation and development



In March 2010, Planact successfully completed the major research study, "Participation and Development from the Perspective of the Poor". The study has received financial support from the Ford Foundation since May 2008. The action research component focused on two case studies where Planact has played a direct supportive role: the joint Food Gardening Cooperative in Vosloorus Ext 28; and the Orlando East/Noordgesig Community Development Committee (CDC). The process evaluation component investigated development projects in which Planact has not been involved and included the following case studies:

- City Deep Hostel redevelopment project (*in situ* and in fill development) led by the Johannesburg Social Housing Company (JOSHCO), located in the City of Johannesburg Metro Municipality;
- Thinasonke Ext 4 FEDUP Pledge Project, located in the Ekurhuleni Metro Municipality. This is a Greenfield project to be developed through the People's Housing Process (PHP) supported by the Federation of the Urban and Rural Poor (FEDUP); and
- Bantu Bonke Hydroponics project, located in the Midvaal Local Municipality. This is an agricultural local economic development project with corporate social investment funding.

In summary, the process of enquiry has generated more awareness among community members and service providers such as state and developer agencies towards improving their engagement processes. At an organisational level, Planact staff members have been able to reflect critically on organisational practices and, particularly through the action research process, have been able to rethink strategy with community members. We are now better able to meet their needs through more genuine participation processes, including a stronger focus on skills transfer and working towards a learning site approach. The project has provided an intensive monitoring and evaluation approach which can be applied to improve a range of projects. While it has reinforced the important role of process facilitation which Planact assumes, it has also provided lessons on improving this function and strengthening social mobilisation towards enhancing advocacy strategies. A synthesis report and CD, including detailed case study research reports, has been produced, together with a report on the successful research dissemination seminar held on 26 March 2010, attended by 78 participants, including well-known political analyst, Professor Steven Friedman, who served as research discussant.

Project evaluation – informal settlement upgrading

As part of the project to enhance community participation in informal settlement upgrading and regularisation processes, which started in January 2010, Planact has begun engaging in a research process to better understand related policy and practical approaches. The research process serves to document and evaluate the approach employed in the current project, which will serve as the basis for improved practice, learning and advocacy.



Policy Analysis and Advocacy

Community-based advocacy



With support from the Good Governance Learning Network (GGLN), Planact organised and hosted a learning event on community-based planning (CBP) in August 2009, bringing together approximately 50 participants including community members from Diepsloot, Protea South, Zandspruit, Vosloorus, Orlando, Thembelihle and Sol Plaatjies, as well as representatives from the Good Governance Learning Network (GGLN), Community Organisation Resources Centre (CORC), and the Japanese Volunteer Centre (JVC). Presentations were made by officials from the City of Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni municipality and a community leader in Orlando East – sharing their experiences of CBP and future municipal plans in this regard.

This workshop provided valuable opportunities for discussion with government officials emphasising that community-based planning should be seen as a social contract between the community, ward committee and the municipality. This will facilitate community planning that will contribute to the Integrated Development Plan (IDP); to enable the community, ward committee and councillor to take ownership of development in their ward and to realise the notion of developmental local governance. A number of challenges were identified which need to be addressed for the CBP process to serve an effective purpose. These include limited information about the CBP process in municipalities; corruption at municipal level; limited capacity of ward committees; poor service delivery; limited clarity regarding the link between CBP and IDP processes; and poor coordination between departments and between spheres of government. Based on the information gained, Planact will continue including community-based planning as a key element of its training and support focus, so that community members will be in a better position to provide input into government planning and monitoring processes.

Advocacy through networking

Through membership in the Good Governance Learning Network (GGLN), Planact continues to engage directly with issues of public participation and governance. Activities included participation in the launch of the GGLN's State of Local Government report; the 10th anniversary of the Local Government Bulletin of the Community Law Centre (CLC); representing the GGLN on the national steering committee for the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA)'s project: Capacity Delivery for Local Government (CDLG).

In response to increasing protest action regarding poor service delivery, Planact participated in a roundtable discussion organised by the GGLN in October 2009 focusing on "The Politics of Protest: Causes, consequences and response challenges". The event allowed for discussion on links between the protest action and national politics and the role of civil society. Through the GGLN's coordination, Planact was invited to participate in the civil society consultation session on the Local Government Turn-around Strategy (LGTAS) arranged by the Department of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) in December 2009. Participants expressed concern about the lack of former consultation with civil society and indicated recommendations for changes to the strategy, as well as sharing their individual organisational contributions already in practice, for example: Planact's capacity building and research programmes.

In the early part of this reporting period, Planact staff served actively on various task teams coordinated by the National Department of Housing, contributing towards developing implementation guidelines for the Enhanced People's Housing Process (EPHP). As a result of changes in the Ministry of Human Settlements and, specifically, in the PHP Directorate, since July 2009 there has been limited engagement in terms of finalising the implementation guidelines. However, civil society organisations involved in the PHP reference group have continued to follow up with the PHP Directorate. There has been a stronger focus on the broader sustainable human settlements approach through consultative forums at national and local municipal levels. These aim

to consolidate a social contract with a range of sectors to address the challenges more coherently. Planact was represented at the National Human Settlements Social Contract Plenary in November 2009, which focused on developing partnerships within the sphere of human settlements development. Planact was also represented at the City of Johannesburg's housing summit in November 2009, which aimed to create a platform for citizens to express their housing needs and to consider possible solutions. Through these forums and engagements, Planact continues to expand its knowledge and its contributions with regard to human settlements development. This informs further project work, particularly efforts focused on civic education and supporting communities to access suitable land, housing, basic services and facilities, and income-generating opportunities.

Planact continues to strengthen its involvement in the LANDfirst campaign, working with a group of NGOs, CBOs and social movements led by Afesis-Corplan and supported by Urban Landmark, aimed at developing strategies around promoting the 'LANDfirst' concept. This includes incremental settlement development and managed access to land. Planact forms part of the core group tasked with introducing the concept to key decision-making bodies, including the National Department of Human Settlements, the National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP), and the Housing Development Agency (HDA). In December 2009, Planact participated in a 'thought experiment' workshop focusing on basic services, security of tenure, finances, and demarcation, as well as a presentation by a Planact representative on community organising and mobilising strategies.

Planact staff also participated in a range of *ad hoc* networking and advocacy events hosted by various civil society organisations, academic institutions and government sectors. Planact was invited to share its work through formal presentations at learning events hosted by Afesis-Corplan, focusing on the Good Governance Survey conducted in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality in Mpumalanga Province, and the Ikwezi Institute Seminar on Service Delivery Protests, with a presentation on community participation. The latter presentation was featured in a *Business Day* publication, in July 2009. Planact also participated in a panel discussion on a national television programme in November 2009 – Third Degree (eTV) – which highlighted problems concerned with access to housing and corruption. In March 2010, Planact's local governance coordinator participated in the World Urban Forum in Brazil, together with a delegation of South African civil society organisations led by the Development Action Group (DAG), and including the Built Environment Support Group (BESG), and Afesis-Corplan. The event was followed by a learning exchange with Brazilian NGOs and CBOs, municipalities and different urban settlement areas.





Institutional development

Institutional capacity development has included regular board oversight, an Annual General Meeting held in November 2009, and staff involvement in ongoing learning opportunities including relevant certificate and postgraduate courses supported by Planact and Urban Landmark. We have also derived benefit from the support of six interns during this period, including students from the School of Planning & Architecture at Wits University (Lindiwe Mkhonza and Tinyiko Nthombifuti Sambo); the International Human Rights Exchange Programme (IHRE) at Wits University (Thabiso Sekhobo); the Visions in Action placement agency (Rebecca Schorr); and independent volunteers (Morwa Kgoroba and Shannon Stone).

Partnering with other organisations in terms of advocacy strategies and specific project implementation projects continues to prove extremely valuable, enabling Planact to make a stronger impact on policy debates and expanding our knowledge base as well as strengthening capacity for the successful implementation of projects.

Financials

Planact

(Association incorporated under section 21)

(Registration number 1994/001660/08)

Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2010

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2010 R	2009 R
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant & equipment	2	40 075	41 414
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables		86 078	642 715
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1 826 843	1 234 588
		1 912 921	1 877 303
Total assets		1 952 996	1 918 717
Equity and liabilities			
Equity			
Growth and development fund		653 073	687 891
Operating funds		(169 902)	327 913
Retrenchment reserve		313 911	308 ,413
		797 082	1 324 217
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables		272 251	203 165
Deferred grant income	4	684 074	275 776
Bank overdraft	3	199 589	115 559
		1 155 914	594 500
Total equity and liabilities		1 952 996	1 918 717

Planact

(Association incorporated under section 21)

(Registration number 1994/001660/08)

Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2010

DETAILED INCOME STATEMENT

		2010	2009
	Notes	R	R
Revenue			
Grants received	5	3 231 914	3 292 883
Sundry income		20 103	31 746
Training, facilitation and research		212 819	1 116 074
		3 464 836	4 440 703
Other income			
Interest Received	7	98 254	199 060
Operating expenses			
Accounting fees		1 721	2 384
Administration and management fees		21 637	38 769
Advertising and publicity		71 183	11 722
Affiliation fees		2 483	975
Annual report		32 249	31 246
Auditors' remuneration	9	52 050	37 000
Bank charges		15 178	14 736
Computer expenses		54 804	52 012
Conferences, meetings and workshops		113 639	94 087
Consulting fees		177 009	320 546
Depreciation		27 886	32 495
Employee costs		2 701 317	2 749 240
Group life insurance		50 627	55 969
Insurance		39 808	34 897
Lease rentals on operating lease		321 713	269 609
Legal expenses		15 600	26 020
Monitoring and evaluations		64 819	159 702
NDA project		91 758	124 899
Repairs and maintenance		4 492	1 112
Resources		-	2 430
Staff development		13 135	23 917
Stationery, postage and photocopying		14 523	23 375
Subscriptions		4 650	4 281
Telephone, fax and email		33 306	34 625
Travel		170 676	293 590
		4 095 723	4 439 638
Profit (loss) for the year		(532 633)	200 125

Staff and Board Members



**Seana Nkhahle –
Chairperson of the Board**



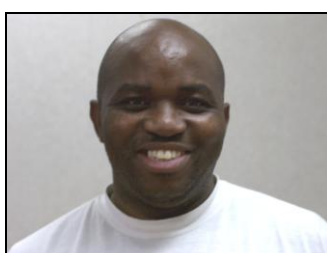
**Hermine Engel -
Programme Manager**



**Spiro Paxinos –
Financial Manager**



**Shumani Luruli –
Senior Project Officer**



**Gwashi Manavhela -
Community Development
Coordinator**



**Mike Makwela –
Local Governance
Coordinator**



**Malachia Mathoho -
Researcher**



**Junior Ramoloto –
Service Officer**



**Tshidi Morotolo -
Administrative Officer**



**Mary Moloisane -
Receptionist**

Board Members serving 2009/2010

**Jackie Lamola
Stephen Berrisford
Matome Gaffane
Thomas Mogale
Mohamed Motala**

**Dominique Erlank
Marie Huchzermeyer
Mokhethi Moshoeshoe
Seana Nkhahle**



FORD FOUNDATION



Katholische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe e.V.





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