



Planact Annual Report

April 2012/March 2013

plan act

Making towns & cities work for people

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1. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure once again, to introduce Planact's 2013/2014 Annual Report. Planact's programmes continue to contribute towards building an active citizenry, democratic practice and a fair society as a contribution towards the achievement of the vision set out in the National Development Plan. Demands in this respect have indeed continued to grow. In all its programmes, Planact strives to ensure meaningful engagement between citizens and the state through different participatory strategies to reach amicable solutions towards developing sustainable livelihoods in various communities.

Planact believes in empowering citizens from feeling marginalised and helpless beneficiaries of state hand-outs, to being active role players in determining development in their respective neighbourhoods. Planact has continued to support vulnerable, marginalised citizens to better understand development processes and appreciate government's efforts in delivering on its mandates. In the same context, Planact has worked with government bureaucrats to enable them to better understand what citizens endure when services are delayed or are inadequate. Vulnerable, marginalised citizens and the state must engage in a harmonious, constructive relationship and in turn, build the capacity of the state to improve the livelihoods of these citizens. For this reason, channels of communication between the state and non-governmental organisations must always be kept open. Planact

has developed and applied innovative approaches to support and advise at all levels of society and contribute towards influencing government policy towards building a democratic and fair society.

The country and Planact are operating within the context of a world economy that is still struggling to recover from an economic slump witnessed in 2008. The resources and support from international donor agencies and development partners have thus been diminishing. This has continued to have negative effects in many different ways including on the support available to non-governmental organisations. Small and prominent non-governmental organisations have closed down during the past couple of years as a result. This risks compromising the loss of a crucial group of role players in the process of entrenching participatory democracy supported by an active and empowered citizenry. Planact has not been spared from this challenge. Resources available for programme implementation have been squeezed beyond comprehension. The resilience of the staff has had to be called upon to keep the organisation on course to deliver on its mandate through this difficult period.

It would be beneficial for non-governmental organisations and government to forge stronger collaborations to create synergy of purpose. On its part, Planact has endeavoured to engage the different spheres of government robustly in pursuit of a shared value proposition for the benefit of our communities.

Once again I give gratitude to all our staff members for the dedication and endurance they have shown during the challenges of the past year; funding partners who have continued to support Planact; all other supporters and well wishers from various sectors. Lastly but definitely not the least, I thank my fellow members of the board of directors for the energy shown in keeping Planact on course.

Lastly I take this opportunity to bid farewell to Ms Hermine Engel

who acted as the Executive Director for two years and steered Planact during one of its most difficult period since its inception. In the same breath, I welcome the new Executive Director Mr Frederick Kusambiza who joined Planact in January 2013. I anticipate that all partners of Planact will continue to support him as he takes on the baton to manage our organisation.

Seana Nkhahle

Chairperson

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I write this report at the time when Planact is left with two years to mark 30 years in existence. As a newly appointed Director to Planact, I invite you to read about the activities that Planact has carried out in the past year that contribute to improving and changing the South African citizens' well being regarding human settlement development and local governance. I also highlight some of the factors in the environment that present opportunities for Planact's future programme work and briefly touch on some of the challenges envisaged ahead.

NGO Environment in General

It is forthright to point out that Planact has worked under strain in the previous year ending March 2013. Despite this, Planact managed to achieve all its set objectives of the two programmes as well as fulfilling its contractual obligations. As it is known to the development fraternity, the non-governmental organisation sector is in stress due to the continued trend of decreasing financial support from both local and international development agencies and other institutions. It has been observed that the little financial support flowing into South Africa predominantly emphasises HIV and Aids programmes, women and children nutrition programmes and to some extent education. This has left programmes related to urban and spatial development, governance, environment and monitoring expenditure of public finance with very little support. This is happening at a time when effective performance in these areas of our society is critical and improving knowledge and expertise is vital to

programmes in these areas. Unfortunately, there is no clear evidence of support from the South African government to non-governmental organisations like Planact whose main goal is to improve citizens' habitable environments.

On the other hand, the development needs are increasing due to several factors noted in the world today, such as the general world population growth and the growing urbanisation mainly in the African cities. South Africa is no exception to the growing urbanisation and as a result there is a noticeable strain in the utilisation of resources in all urban areas. There are options that can be taken to effectively mitigate these new phenomena that pose as impediments to development. Planact is one of the non-governmental organisations that have placed themselves to work against these impediments as you will note in the programme report.

At present, the South African government has got the National Development Plan in place and an implementation plan is highly anticipated. This implementation plan is expected to unfold the recommendations in the National Development Plan that will contribute to improving the ways of living of all citizens regarding the political, economic, social and environmental aspects. Non-governmental organisations are expected to play a critical role in contributing to the implementation of the National Development Plan. So this is another opportunity for non-governmental organisations like Planact to further play a meaningful role in development arena while collaborating with government.

Programme arrangements

Planact continues to carry out its work activities under two distinct programmes, Integrated Human Settlements and Participatory Governance Programmes. While executing these programmes, Planact made concerted effort to continuously increase the civil society participation and inclusion in all developmental processes. These efforts, to a certain extent, have resulted in promising transformations and improvements within local government developmental processes. During the year, Planact endeavoured to apply unique methods that enable citizens from vulnerable groups, to get involved in identifying, planning, deciding and implementing the local development programmes in order to fulfil their requirements and desired needs.

Despite the limitations in the year, Planact managed to work on action and evidence-based research projects that will inform its work going forward. The Planact staff expertise in partnership with external experts enabled Planact complete investing and documenting various ways of land management mainly in the informal settlement settings. A lot of work carried out in the year involved community planning, participatory strategies and influencing resource allocation and asset management. Various initiatives of this nature, which are still underway, were conducted in several communities.

Throughout in this annual report, Planact demonstrates achievements attained in: the physical change where integrated community development has been applied; citizens and respective local governments understanding the prevailing economic, social

and political situation; and the citizens appreciating the essence of working with their respective state organs.

Networks

Working in networks is another approach that Planact hinged on in creating synergy to achieve its objectives. As Planact worked towards developing communities and their required infrastructure, it also initiated debates that contributed to influencing change by impacting policy adjustments and procedural change. All this was done mainly in its network arrangements. The network arrangements contributed towards peer and cross learning for Planact and therefore enabled it to draw knowledge from peer organisations in different ways. In this regard, Planact was able to create resilience to weather the current economic and social climate prevailing in the non-governmental sector and also find inventive ways to engage government institutions at various levels.

In conclusion, I give gratitude to the past and current staff for their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to Planact's development work. In the same context I take this opportunity to bid farewell to Junior Ramaloto who left to start her retirement after serving Planact for 22 years and to the two internship students; Simon Mayson and Nicolette Pingo who spent the past year with Planact.

Enjoy reading through the report, which reflects the activities undertaken and experience gained during the year.

Frederick Kurumbira

Executive Director

3. ORGANISATIONAL BRIEF OVERVIEW

Planact underwent an external evaluation. Following a strategic review of the two existing programmes that were undertaken during the year under review, their respective sub-programmes have been reworked, and clear objectives have been provided to enable a coherent project to programme fit. Planact's aim in all this is to achieve an outcome that strengthens and improves impact to the broader political arena while retaining the strong local grassroots' focus. Therefore the programmes are intended to move beyond the community development emphasis to a stronger inclusion of

integrated spatial development aspects that are related to citizens' rights, fairness and transparent relationships between citizens and state.

This report therefore, provides all activities undertaken in the year under review with reference to the reworked sub-programmes. Planact's key programmes remain Participatory Governance, Integrated Human Settlements with an addition of Community Development Programme. These programmes are shown with the revisions of their respective sub-programmes as follows:

Vision

All vulnerable people live in habitable environments of their choice and are able to express and advance their interests freely.

Mission

Planact facilitates community development processes that enhance participatory governance at the local level to improve people's habitable environment in ways that alleviate poverty.

TABLE 1: REVISED SUB-PROGRAMMES

1.	PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE					
	Previous		Participatory Budgeting		Innovations in Public Participation	
	Revised	a	Planned Budgeting, Performance & Accountability	b	Active Citizenship	
2.	INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENT					
	Previous		Informal Settlement Upgrading		Inner City	
	Revised	a	Informal Settlements Upgrade	b	Inclusive Inner City	c
						Social Movements
						Strengthened Social Movements
3.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT					
	New	a	Community-based Organisation Development	b	Livelihoods Improvement	

TABLE 2: SUB-PROGRAMMES OBJECTIVES

PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE		
	Sub-Programmes	Objectives
1.	Planned Budgeting, Performance and Accountability	A society with municipal performance protests Municipalities transparently account to citizens
2.	Active Citizenship	Citizens participate meaningfully in development processes, while government is accountable in these processes and the development processes are effective and efficient
INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENT		
	Sub-Programmes	Objectives
1.	Informal Settlements Upgrade	Incremental settlement development is recognised and widely used
2.	Inclusive Inner Cities	Cities are with no gentrification
3.	Strengthened Social Movements	All groups of society have equal access to socio and economic opportunities
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		
	Sub-Programmes	Objectives
1.	Community-based Organisation Development	Incremental settlement development is recognised and widely used
2.	Livelihood Improvement	Cities are with no gentrification

The programme activities remain supported by Research and Capacity Development.

The figure below gives an overview of the programmatic structure and respective objectives and current projects;

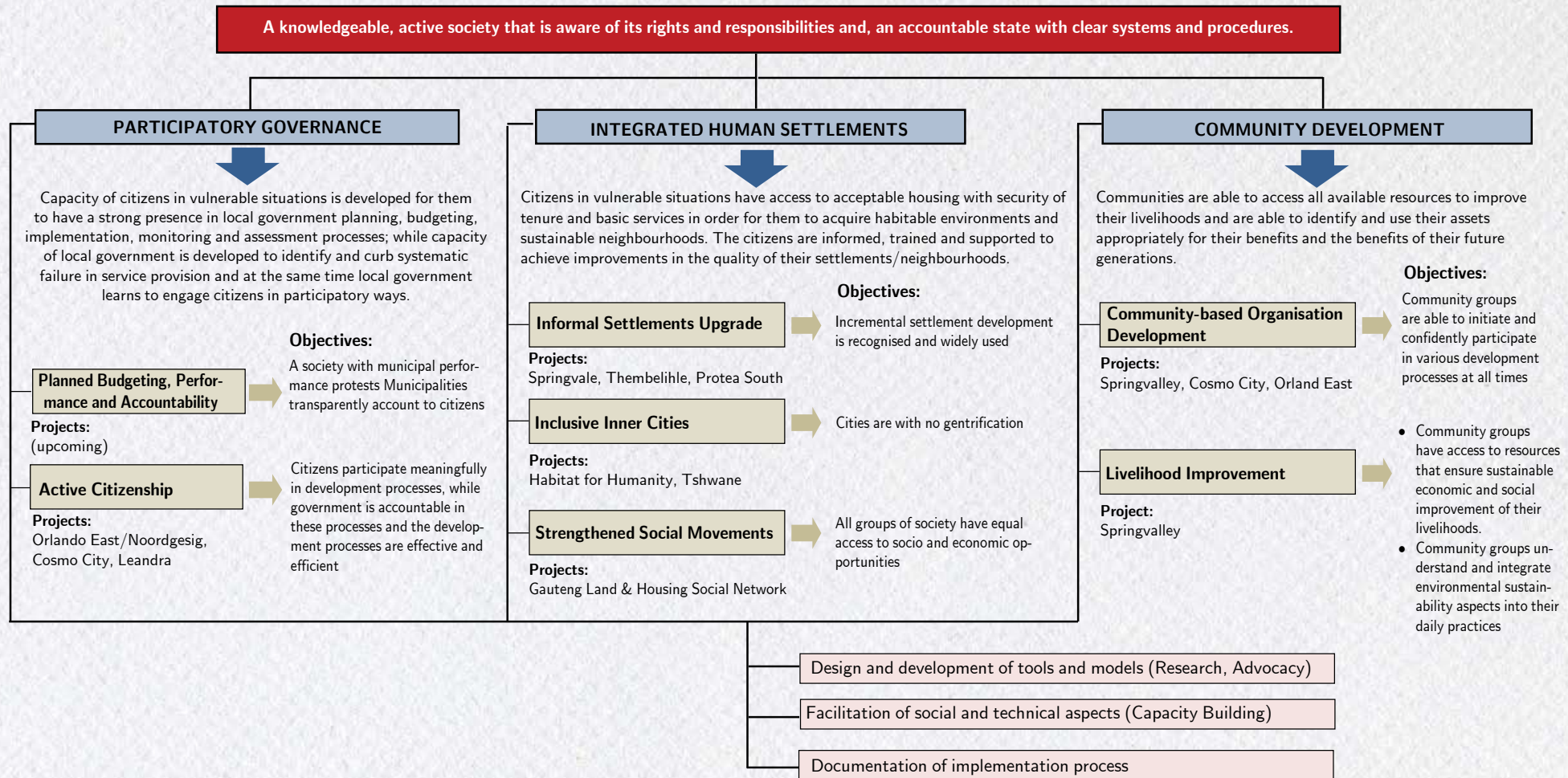


FIGURE 1: PLANACT PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

4. PROGRAMMES

4.1 PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

Objective:

Citizens in vulnerable situations have access to acceptable housing with security of tenure and basic services in order for them to acquire habitable environments and sustainable neighbourhoods. The citizens are informed, trained and supported to achieve improvements in the quality of their settlements/neighbourhoods.



LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

SUB PROGRAMME 1: ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

A. ORLANDO EAST/NOORDGESIG LOCATED IN SOWETO, CITY OF JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG PROVINCE

ENGAGEMENT:

Planact supported Orlando East/Noordgesig Community Development Committee (CDC) which it helped to establish through numerous social facilitation engagements. CDC is a network organisation bringing together a range of different community based organisations, with the intention of promoting community participation and monitoring government service delivery.

During the past year, the CDC received its NPO legal status which will go a long way in assisting the CDC to access resources for its project activities. Planact assisted the CDC in this process through constitutional development as well as helping the committee navigate the application process. The CDC held its annual strategic planning session in January 2013 to plan for the year and subsequently, several thematic sub-committees were established including housing, environment, budget monitoring, community events and capacity building. Assisted by Planact, the CDC has developed healthy relationships with the ward councillors, the ward governance official, CDW and ward committees.

AIMS:

The concerted effort by the different CDC structures to collectively advocate for the community's development continued to derive positive spin-offs such as infrastructure development currently being installed by the City of Johannesburg in the area. For example, key pedestrian movement routes being made safer through sidewalks, lighting, signage, landscaping and street furniture.

LESSONS AND RESULTS:

The importance of public participation in service delivery has been acknowledged with greater sincerity by ward councillors as a result of the project.

B. LEANDRA

Leandra is a small, semi-rural agricultural settlement with a population of approximately 80 000 residents. It is situated in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality in Gert Sibande District. The town is facing serious socio-economic decline as unemployment and poverty are rife. In 2010, these socio-economic tensions caused the eruption of violent service delivery protests in the community. As a result of the protests, there is tension between the community and the municipality which also led to a lack of communication. Planact in partnership with Leandra Community Centre (LCC) continued to support and foster dialogue between Govan Mbeki Local municipality and the community of Leandra.

ENGAGEMENT:**i. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING IN LEANDRA**

Planact (with support from GIZ) was requested by the community to assist in developing an urban development framework addressing these issues. As a result, a strategic planning workshop and a situational analysis took place in July. The aim of the study was to better understand the community's problems including poverty, unemployment, skills gaps, health issues, crime and other socio-economic dynamics in the community. With the assistance of the Leandra Community Centre and local volunteers in conducting interviews and focus group discussions, some key findings include: the need for improvements in municipal public participation channels; housing provisions

are lacking both in quantity and quality; environmental pollution is rife whilst inadequate infrastructure development such as electricity and water are deterring development.

ii. SIQALILE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Planact and LCC coordinated a meeting of different community based organisations for the purpose of engaging with the municipality and to enhance public participation in the municipal planning processes such as the IDP and the budget. Siqalile Development Forum has since being established. The name literally means "*We have started*" signifying the energy and the enthusiasm that the community based organisations has in contributing to the development of their area. The community in partnership with Planact/LCC identified the stream running through the community as a health hazard and decided to embark on a cleaning campaign for which the local municipality donated gloves, refuse bags, skip and trees. However, there is a need for the municipality to enforce its by-laws especially those pertaining to companies that pollute the stream.

C. COSMO CITY

Cosmo City Community Development Forum (CCCDF) comprises of 18 community based organisations drawn from political parties, non-governmental organisations, sports bodies, education desk, labour desk, health, ward committee members and the business forum. CCCDF is located in the City of Johannesburg Metro.

ENGAGEMENT:

CCDF has been supported to renew the structure after a period of inactivity due to political tensions among the member organisations (representing 15 community organisations):

In February 2013, Planact facilitated a leadership and conflict management training workshop for the forum as requested by CCDF members, with the intention of building consensus on the leadership style and the roles and responsibilities of different portfolios to be applied in the forum. The purpose of the training was to strengthen the organisation to be able to function effectively. The training was tailor-made for CCDF. It covered the roles and responsibilities of executive committee, roles and responsibilities of different portfolios, group dynamics, conflict management and negotiation skills. As a result of this training, CCDF members know their roles, and the organisation is managed effectively.

LESSONS AND RESULTS:

As a result of this training, the different portfolios have been able to conduct their activities effectively and efficiently. The quality of monthly reports has also improved significantly. The forum has recently taken part in the Municipal IDP process, and they were able to make constructive contributions in the discussion. The forum intends to develop a tourist route in the area so as to stimulate local economy and job creation opportunities.

The chairperson of CCDF together with other stakeholders will be launching a community radio station in July 2013 and he will chair the board of the radio station. The chairperson has committed to see that at the least 5% of the content to be broadcasted on the radio station focuses governance related issues. It is envisaged that this will assist with promoting dialogue within the community and the City.

4.2 INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Objective:

Capacity of citizens in vulnerable situations is developed for them to have a strong presence in local government planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and assessment processes; while capacity of local government is developed to identify and curb systematic failure in service provision and at the same time local government learns to engage citizens in participatory ways.



FIGURE 2: INTERMEDIARY WATER SERVICES IN SPRINGVALLEY

4.2.1 SUB-PROGRAMME: INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADE

A. SPRINGVALLEY

Springvalley is an informal settlement that is made up of approximately 1200 households. Located in Nkangala District, Springvalley is nestled in the midst of an affluent suburb in Emalahleni Local Municipality. The community faced threat of relocation to a greenfields housing project considered by residents to be too far from their livelihood sources. Besides insecure tenure, the settlement faces service provision challenges as it has no running water, no electricity and poor sanitation. Due to the above mentioned conditions, there is a breakdown in communication and community needs are not reflected in the municipal development plans.

Planact initiated working with the community in 2010 and continued to support the community primarily through social facilitation which was conducted as follows:

- continued direct support to Springvalley Development Committee (SDC) through monthly meetings. A roster of meetings is circulated yearly to each SDC member for easy planning.
- continued support and assistance to SDC on their different organizing strategies
- continued support to the SDC with direct participatory engagements and dialogue between community members and local government
- continued support in performance monitoring and advocacy to SDC for positive development outcomes.

Specific project initiatives are expanded as follows:

i. WATER PROVISION

ENGAGEMENT:

Planact supported the Springvalley Development Committee (SDC) by providing capacity building and organisational development regarding SDCs participation in incremental approaches to informal settlement upgrading and in particular, service delivery. The issue of water has been a particularly sore point for the community as they have no reliable, permanent source of water, therefore they are relying on water tanks that are not always filled timeously. The community used a two pronged approach to demand for water provision from the local municipality, primarily, engaging with the local municipality and at the same time engaging with the district municipality.

AIM:

By putting pressure on the two local governance spheres, the SDC managed to keep the issue of water provision alive in the municipal discourse, particularly at the local municipality which seemed more reluctant to accede to the demand of water provision in the settlement. Despite the SDC persistently following up, there seemed to be a lack of commitment from the part of the Local Municipality.

The aim was to get the district municipality to allocate R2.4million to be used to install a borehole as an interim measure for which feasibility studies are currently underway through a consultant appointed by the District Municipality. The next step will be to form administrative structures for the project made up of two district and two local municipal officials, and two community representatives to find a permanent solution to the water problem in the settlement.

LESSONS AND RESULTS:

As our engagement with the community continues, issues to be taken forward include:

- Persistent interaction with the municipality has proved to be an effective strategy in getting attention and keeping the community's agenda alive.
- Finding different entry points mitigates the risk of neglect as in the case of the District Municipality stepping in and giving weight to the community's demands.
- It will be important to find ways around the various power dynamics at play especially around the influence of the private sector.
- The issue of poor intergovernmental relations at local and district level as well as uncoordinated responses between the different local municipal departments has to be addressed moving forward.

ii. COLLABORATION TO PROMOTE INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADE

In November and December 2012, the Centre for Development Enterprise (**CDE**) in collaboration with Planact conducted a radio show project titled, ***“Know your community, know your rights: Addressing tough questions around informal settlements”***. The key objective of the programme was to address the issue of effective communication for urbanization and informal settlement upgrading given that there is a lack of strategic communication between the community and the municipality in Emalahleni.



RADIO DIALOGUE FOR SPRINGVALLEY

ENGAGEMENT:

Firstly, to ensure that a wider audience for the broadcasts was reached, bulk SMSes were sent out weekly preceding the broadcasts as a reminder for people to listen in. Word of mouth proved to be quite useful as a means of letting people without access to mobile devices know of the programme and the focus group discussions thereafter.

In addition to administration and logistical planning with the Springvalley Development Committee (SDC), after each of the radio shows were aired, Planact facilitated the post broadcast discussions which were an important platform for deeper engagement on the issues raised. Using a generator-powered radio pertinent parts of the show were played back and put up for discussion. In one of the radio sessions, Planact provided significant content input and was interviewed on issues pertaining to informal settlement upgrading. Each week had an hour long show with different sub-topics:

- **Oral History and Community Issues.** Elders in the community presented an oral history, detailing how the settlement emerged and its significance in the area. They also explained some of residents' concerns.
- **Local and International Research.** This provided the academic perspective and gave examples of successful upgrading practices.
- **Neighbourhood Concerns.** Based on a survey of the community, this programme gave feedback on residents' concerns regarding informal settlements, and the downside and upside of informal settlement upgrade.
- **Local Authority's Perspective.** Emalahleni FM radio station intended to interview the mayor and/or municipal manager.

AIMS:

According to CDE, strategic communication is a way to engage and inform. Both local and international research indicate a need for improved communication practices in reasserting the importance of urbanisation and informal settlement upgrading should be debated:

Improving communication addresses some of the general transparency issues and perceptions of corruption in the public sector, whereby both limit effective upgrading. The international trend is for communication, via dialogue and participation, to help reach overall developmental objectives.

Given that locally, many policy and practical issues around informal settlement upgrading, are not well understood or even known among the general public, Planact felt that this was a good learning opportunity for Springvalley residents as well as the broader community. It was also a chance to reach a wider audience regarding issues of in-situ upgrading and informal settlement upgrading in general. The program also gave assurance to the inhabitants that Springvalley was still on the agenda and 'not forgotten' and this in turn increased hope for development.

LESSONS AND RESULTS:

- People's understanding of the informal settlement upgrading policies and processes was improved
- Following the show on surrounding neighbourhood perceptions, it emerged that the perception that divisions in the community regarding the settlement emanated from racial prejudice was actually wrong as it turned out to be more of a class issue.
- An assumption could be made that as a result of the radio show the attendance in the IDP meeting which was held two days after the first broadcast, was high.
- Whilst there were many positives, the failure of the municipality to appear on the show, reinforced further the notion that the municipality was uncooperative and unwilling to commit to the project and many community members expressed disappointment.
- Radio as a means of communication has proved to be one of the most effective modes of communication as most people had easy access to it and also due to its wider reach.

iii. INCREMENTAL TENURE

ENGAGEMENT

Planact in partnership with Urban Landmark, embarked on a process of developing an incremental tenure roadmap in Springvalley and settlement management processes. Urban landmark has developed an approach to securing tenure in informal settlements largely based on incremental recognition of tenure through administrative and legal mechanisms. This process will be used to advocate for incremental administrative tenure recognition by the municipality of Emalahleni and issues pertaining to informal settlement land management in Springvalley.

This will be the first initiative of this kind in the municipality, and hopefully it will set precedence on how to formalize informal settlements with similar characteristics such as Springvalley within the municipality.

Planact co-facilitated interactive information consolidation sessions between the Springvalley community and ULM to ascertain the current tenure situation in greater detail within the context of devising a roadmap to a more secure tenure. The workshops also helped the community to better understand the issues around incremental tenure security.

TABLE 3: PRELIMINARY SPRINGVALLEY TENURE ROADMAP OUTLINE (URBAN LANDMARK)

Steps in the roadmap	Resist evictions			Enhance tenure through community actions		
	Publicity and awareness	Networking with NGOs and civil society	Pursue legal action	Update the current enumeration data, including community assets	Develop a system to manage the enumeration data	Community led street addressing
				Create a geo-spatial component to the current enumeration data	Build local land management practices	Compile forms of evidence to recognize locally managed de-facto rights
				Deal with the land ownership question	Lobby for provision of basic services and recognition	Lobby for political support

B. THEMBELIHLE CRISIS COMMITTEE

ENGAGEMENT:

Thembelihle Crisis Committee (TCC) was formed from an informal settlement situated South within the City of Johannesburg. The City of Johannesburg believes that there is dolomite in this area and therefore planned to relocate the people residing in this settlement.

Due to this relocation cited by the City of Johannesburg, TCC participated in protest marches during 2012. Planact in partnership with SERI provided legal and capacity support to the leaders of TCC. Geotechnical surveys were conducted and it was established that only parts of the settlement.

Have low levels of dolomite risk. For this reason the City of Johannesburg agreed to conduct further studies on the dolomite conditions in this area.

Planact continues to provide socio- technical support to TCC in different ways:

- Planact continued to meet with TCC monthly to plan different strategies of engaging with the municipality regarding upgrading. The City is insisting that the community should be relocated to Lehae, a settlement approximately 25km from the CBD of the City. The area is not well developed; it does not have adequate amenities such as health facilities, library, sport fields and shops. The community have to spend more money to get to these amenities.
- Planact also facilitated a series of training workshops to build and strengthen the capacity of newly elected executive members. The training is tailor- made to meet the needs of the TCC. This includes roles and responsibilities of different portfolios (secretary, chairperson etc), minute taking, administration, facilitating community meetings, conflict management. TCC has also attended and participate in the recent community monitoring dialogue session convened by Planact.

C. PROTEA SOUTH

ENGAGEMENT:

Planact supported the community of Protea South with an input into the integrated development plan (IDP) process. The input took the form of a petition. The City of Johannesburg Metro responded favourably to the input. A tarred road was planned for the financial year. Planact arranged for a report back session to the broader community and provided an update on the outcome of the petition.

In relation to the court case against the City of Johannesburg Metro, it was agreed to bring in an engineering expert to further examine the dolomite conditions and different development options for the area. The estimated cost of this exercise is estimated to R1million that the City is willing to make available.

LESSONS AND RESULTS:

A case study has been developed narrating the story of Protea South. The case study is being shared with other informal settlements who find themselves in similar situation like Protea South. The case study was published in the annual Good Governance Learning Network State of Local Governance. This publication was distributed widely to different stakeholders such as government departments, academic institutions and development practitioners.

BELOW: WORKSHOP ON DOLOMITE IN PROTEA SOUTH



4.2.2 SUB-PROGRAMME: INCLUSIVE INNER CITY

A. HADAR COURT - CAPACITY BUILDING

Planact supported the Board of Directors of Hadar Court in the inner city, to strengthen their administrative and managerial skills for the day to day operations of the building. Planact began with a number of consultations with the directors and tenants, as well as research into housing and occupancy rights. This was followed by various negotiations occurring between the directors and tenants mediated by Planact. The skills development process is still in its infancy stage. A number of milestones have however been reached such as the election of a new board of directors based on a democratic process.





B. MILTON COURT - CLEANUP CAMPAIGN

Planact and partner organisations ran an inner city building pilot project focusing on improving living conditions through incremental upgrading approaches and strengthening management systems. The initial tenant-driven upgrading process resulted in a clean-up campaign, unblocking of drains, securing access to water and installing a security gate.

A training workshop on management systems was held in partnership with the Inner City Resources Centre on 6th September with inner city residents' committees from 10 buildings focusing on leadership skills and various management components. Highlights included a SWOT analysis of the buildings and an exchange of ideas on how to deal with challenges.



MILTON COURT – CLEANUP CAMPAIGN'

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- Housing Legislation Overview
- Housing Waiting List
- Eviction Legislation
- The law in struggles for land and housing
- How Government Works-Spheres, Departments, Programs
- Local Government and the role of the councillor in local Government
- Promotion of Access to Information Act
- Using Social Media as a CBO
- Alternatives to RDP Housing- People's Housing Process and Alternative Housing Typologies
- Social Housing as an Option
- Understanding the Gatherings Act

4.2.3 SUB-PROGRAMME: STRENGTHENING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

A. GAUTENG LAND AND HOUSING SOCIAL NETWORK

The GLHSN is made up of social movements and community-based organisations, who together with Planact and the Socio-economic Rights Institute (SERI) representatives meet on a regular basis to share strategies and challenges to accessing land and housing. In 2011 Planact and SERI hosted workshops to equip all members of the network with key information on matters related to land and housing in a South African context. These workshops were stimulating and sparked a call for such workshops to take place on annual basis.

From the 31st of October to the 2nd of November 2012 Planact in partnership with SERI hosted a three-day workshop for the GLHSN. Representatives from community based organisations and social movements

from across Gauteng with an interest in land and housing issues converged for the workshops. The event was well attended with representatives from eight different communities participating in the workshop.

The workshop covered a diversity of topics related to land and housing from the housing waiting list, housing legislation, the South African social housing landscape, the Enhanced People's Housing Process (EPHP), government functions and structures, the role of the Ward Councillor, the experiences of PR Councillors and ward committee members and relevant legislation such as: the Prevention of Illegal Evictions Act (PIE), the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) and the Gatherings Act.

4.3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Objective:

Communities are able to access all available resources to improve their livelihoods and are able to identify and use their assets appropriately for their benefits and the benefits of their future generations.



CRAFTS MADE BY THE COMMUNITY

4.3.1 SUB-PROGRAMME: LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT

A. PROTEA SOUTH

Planact conducted a sustainable livelihood workshop, and the community identified a building cooperative as one of the projects. This was motivated by the ongoing incremental building going on in the area by community members. The cooperative intended to benefit from this opportunity. The cooperative recently received its legal registration. Planact has provided a range of training including financial management, bookkeeping, tendering, group dynamics and assisted the cooperative develop human resource policies.

B. THEMBELIHLE HOME BASED CARE

Thembelihle Home Based Care representatives were supported in developing funding proposals in order to apply for resources. The home based care developed their action plan, and identified families that needed support and care. They were engaged with the City for assistance in the form of food parcels.

C. COSMO CITY

Planact supported a cooperative (linked to the Cosmo City Development Forum (CCCDF) who are engaged in a bread-making project, based on a machine donated by the Lanseria Community Skills Centre. Support was provided in terms of strengthening understanding of cooperative approaches, registration processes, fundraising, and negotiations with the local School Governing Body for storage and operating space.

D. SPRINGVALLEY

Planact continued to support sustainable livelihood strategies and linkages for Springvalley. In this regard, Planact has partnered with Thembaletu Community Care Centre (TCCC). The project is intended to start a community food garden to enhance food security, identify livelihood strategies, capacity building (project management), technical support (mentoring), learning exchange with other organisations and linkages. Funded by Lotto, the project outcome is to increase food security in the community through the community food garden that is in the process of being established, and to enhance the work that TCCC does in the community the organizational development and capacity building.

E. ORLANDO EAST/NOORDGESIG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CDC)

i. THE WASTE DUMP CLEAN-UP

The CDC Environmental Forum identified open spaces being used illegally as dump sites by the residents of Orlando East/Noordgesig, and have embarked on a process of cleaning the sites. Realising an opportunity, their intention is to convert those dump sites into community parks. The impact of this initiative will lead to a clean and healthy environment of the area. Additionally, there is an intention to recycle the waste collected, which will stimulate income-generating enterprises and contribute to poverty alleviation for several families. Following social facilitation support leading up to the formation of sub-committees, Planact continued to provide support particularly through networking platforms. For example, Planact facilitated the establishment of a relationship between the Environmental Forum and Pikitup which has become a key partner in the project. Through their assistance, the Environmental Forum embarked on a tree planting exercise and two community parks were set up.



FIGURE 4: WOMEN FROM THE SPRINGVALLEY COMMUNITY

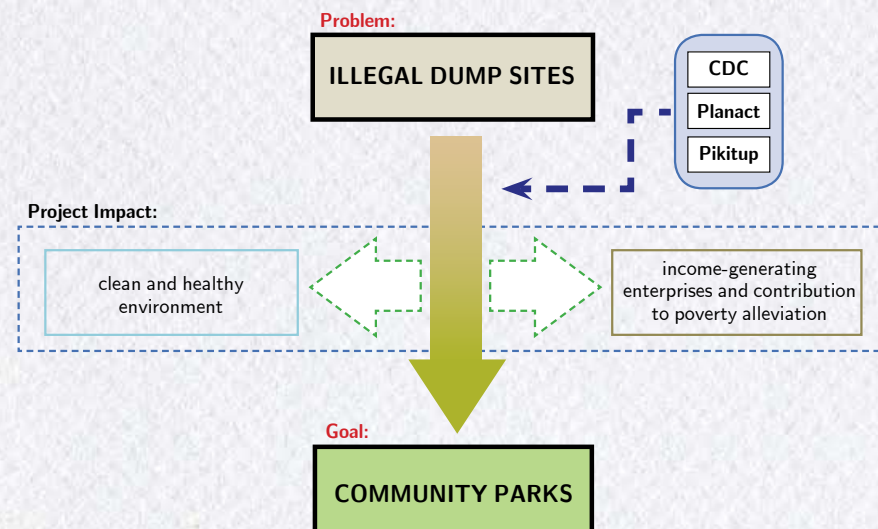


FIGURE 5: PROJECT SUMMARY FOR WASTE DUMP CONVERSIONS

ii. TOURIST ROUTE

Planact continued to provide support to **Orlando East/Noordgesig** Community Development Committee (CDC), particularly the Tourism sub-committee, in the implementation of the community tourist route which is intended to stimulate the local economy and opportunities for local enterprises. This project takes advantage of the fact that the area is recognized by the City of Johannesburg Metro as being a key cultural and heritage area with high potential for tourism in the Vilakazi Street and Hector Pieterse Museum Precincts. Planact convened community meetings to help identify the most desirable route and facilitated access to the mapping materials.

F. LEANDRA CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

Over 90 community members gathered near the banks of the Leandra stream that flows from one end of the small town to the other. Formerly a favourite fishing and picnic site, the once clear stream became heavily polluted and as a result a source of great discontent as it posed a dire health hazard and emitted a terrible stench from its murky waters. As a pilot project for the Siqalile Leandra Development Forum (SLDF), the Environment sub-committee chose the stream clean-up as it is a problem that affected all the town's inhabitants and required immediate attention. The representative from the Govan Mbeki Municipality donated equipment such as gloves, dust masks, plastic bags, tipper trucks and machinery for heavy duty digging. In his address to the community members the representative lauded the community's initiative and said that the municipality was behind them all the way. Following the clean-up the SLDF agreed that for the way forward, dialogue between the Municipality and local industry was crucial. Planact and GIZ provided logistical and administrative support for the campaign which community members hailed as a successful start to the process of restoring the stream, and the town as a whole, to their former glory.



LEANDRA STREAM CLEAN UP

4.3.2 SUB-PROGRAMMES: COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Objective:

Communities are able to access all available resources to improve their livelihoods and are able to identify and use their assets appropriately for their benefits and the benefits of their future generations.

A. CAPACITY BUILDING

i. TRAINING

continued to be provided to community organisations in different settlements. It is tailor made for each community needs and for a particular purpose. This includes 'How Local Government Works, leadership, conflict management, writing skills, conducting meetings, organizing skills, sustainable livelihood approaches, evictions, litigation process, tenure security, facilitation skills, presentation skills, financial management, and community based planning and organizational development. There was a significant improvement in the organisational operations of all the structures where Planact conducted workshops mainly manifested as greater management capacity of the community organisations, improved minute taking and recording systems, better structured filing of organisational documents is in order and monitoring systems are in place.

ii. LEARNING EXCHANGES

between different communities continues to be one of the activities that provide an opportunity for cross learning and peer support. This was evident by Thembelihle, Springvalley and Protea South settlements attending court case of Makause Informal settlement leaders who were wrongfully arrested for demanding water provision from Ekurhuleni Metro Municipality. The case was subsequently dropped by the court. The solidarity demonstrated by the informal settlements is commendable.

iii. BUILDING TRUST AND FOSTERING RELATIONSHIP

with the community continues to be Planact's main focus. Planact continues to support community needs and expectations through quarterly evaluations and reflections. This assists Planact to refine its programme/project intervention strategies.

5. ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

Below is an account of some of the advocacy and networking activities Planact was involved in during the year under review.

Roundtable Seminar on Housing Allocation and the Housing Demand Database (HDD) System in South Africa

Planact participated in a seminar organised by CLC and Social Economic Rights Institute to discuss how the Housing Demand Database (HDD) was assisting municipalities in the Western Cape and Gauteng Province to allocate new housing to beneficiaries on waiting lists. A Comparison of the performance of the HDD was made to a web-based system called the National Housing Needs Register (NHNR) that was introduced in 2010. Although the Gauteng Province would like to shift from HDD to the NHNR (new) system, NHNR system does not provide adequate beneficiary information nor does it provide a suitable bench mark that can be used to compare the performance of the South African Government with other countries in addressing housing needs.

Good Governance Learning Network - State of Local Government Launch

As a member of the Good Governance Learning Network (GGLN), Planact participated in members' quarterly meetings. During the year, a report on the State of Local Government (SLG) 2012 was launched under the theme: "Putting Participation at the Heart of Development / Putting Development at the Heart of Participation". The SLG was written under the following themes:

- Community-led initiatives for Social Accountability, Governance and Service Delivery Surveys, Community Monitoring;
- Alternative Approaches and Models to Enhance Public Participation; and
- Collaborative Planning Tools and Methodologies.

IDASA Economic Policy Literacy Workshop

This workshop focused on the importance of understanding bill of rights and intergovernmental relations with regards to the citizen's responsibilities and functions of Provincial and Local Government. This included:

- Democracy Engagement and Advocacy;
- Social accountability and active citizenship;
- Policy Implementation failures and Constraints;
- Introduction to Planning and Budgeting process, Budget Analysis, and Analysis Techniques and Application;
- Monitoring Government performance in service delivery; and
- Making Advocacy Work:
- The aim was to improve and enhance advocacy activities amongst NGOs, acquire monitoring techniques on government's expenditures development activities.

Isandla Workshop on Informal Settlement Upgrading

This workshop focused on technical planning aspects with input from National Upgrade Support Programme. The objectives of the workshop were to have: a common perspective between urban NGOs and allied professionals about the role of intermediary organisations in the incremental upgrading of informal settlements; a comprehensive overview of all the technical issues of successful ISU projects; and a clear understanding of how and where to find further support and resources.

Informal settlement upgrade is seen as one of the options available to improve community settings with minimal disruptions of social networks and to some extent access to economic activities.

University College London (UCL) - Participation in City Wide Planning

This was an initiative to compare approaches used between the City of London and City of Johannesburg in city-wide planning and learn the various lessons that can improve community participation in city-wide planning. Development in cities must

be centred on citizens' living and use and therefore the level of citizen participation should be increased in all aspects to grow sustainable cities. A few officials from the City of Johannesburg Metro took part in this discussion. Planact plans to continue in this involvement with the City of Johannesburg Metro under its sub-programme of 'Inclusive Inner City'.

Dept of Monitoring and Evaluation meeting with GGLN representatives, 27 September:

Planact participated in a meeting hosted at SERI offices and organized by GGLN Chair to gain information on the Presidency's approach to developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for community based monitoring.

Isandla Institute events on Lessons from Brazil on Collaborative Planning, 6 & 7 November:

Planact attended two workshops organized by Isandla institute. The topics covered were: 'Advancing Collaborative Planning Structures for Urban Transformation in South Africa: Lessons from Brazil' and "The shape of things to come: Towards a more accountable, responsive and people-centred local government?".

Inner City Charter Seminar:

Planact attended the seminar called by CoJ where they wanted to table the Inner City Charter for the stakeholders to interact with the information but to also have time for reflection and feedback.



THE GAUTENG LAND & HOUSING SOCIAL NETWORK MEETING

6. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

6.1. ADMINISTRATION

Administration support staff in the organization was at a ratio of 1:3 staff. The administration department provided support to the programme staff who successfully fulfilled all the programme obligations under each contract as mentioned earlier on in the programme reports. Although the organization is understaffed, logistical arrangements were always done promptly to enable programme staff execute their activities satisfactorily.

Human Resource: Planact staff component remained constant at about ten staff members. During the year, two staff with urban planning skills from the University of Witwatersrand and an architectural graduate were appointed on contracts. These appointments worked very well for the organization by bringing extra capacity that was desperately needed and brought on board contemporary ideas in the field. This trend will be continued going forward.

Program Support: A team of three staff make up the finance and administration section and they provide administrative support to the programme coordinators. Planact's project expenditure budget was adhered to quite satisfactorily with research and workshops as being the dominant expenditure items.

	African		Coloured		Indian		White	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Board	3	1			1		1	1
Management	2			1			1	
Programme Staff		2					1	1
Administration Staff		2						
Total	5	5	0	1	1	0	3	2

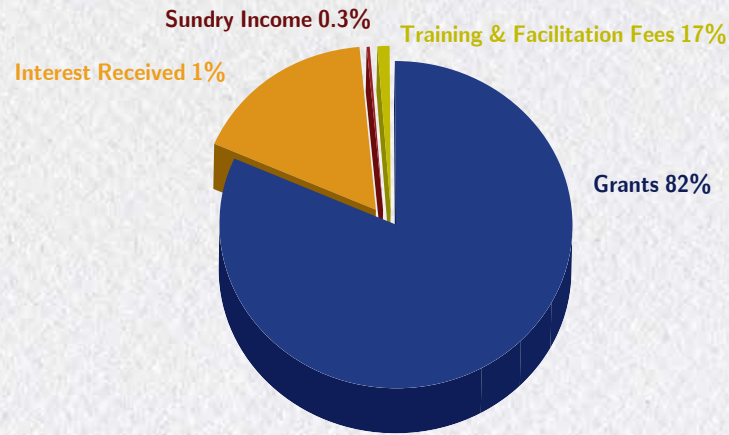
6.2. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Planact's administrative costs have amounted to about R430,00 during the 2013 Fin year. This includes rent, electricity and all supporting overheads. Various cost saving measures have enabled a significant reduction of this annual expense in comparison to previous recent years.

Planact's two main programmes for the year were 'Promoting Participatory Urban Development Processes' funded by KZE-Misereor and 'Informal Settlement Upgrading' funded by the Ford Foundation account for two thirds of Planact's donor support. Valuable support was also received from the Open Society Foundation, The German Development Cooperation and the National Lottery. In addition a number of short term project agreements were entered into with local partners. Planact's income for the year amounted to approx R2.4 million and resulted in an overall surplus of R 30,000 being generated.

Revenue

2013

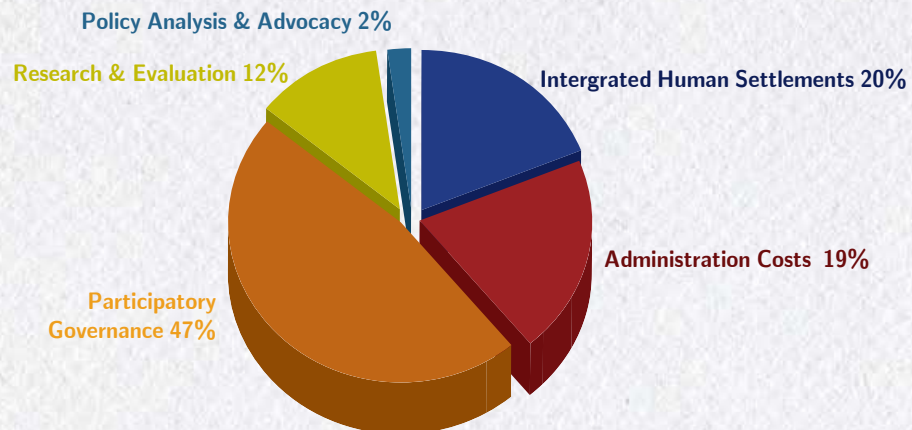


Condensed Statement of Income and Expenditure

	2013
	R
Revenue	
Grants	1 860 527
Training & Facilitation Fees	382 533
Sundry Income	6 218
Interest Received	26 053
Total	2 275 331

Expenditure

2013



Expenditure

Administration Costs	433 735
Intergrated Human Settlements	439 318
Participatory Governance	1 050 671
Research & Evaluation	276 624
Policy Analysis & Advocacy	39 212
Total	2 239 560
Profit for the year	35 771

Planact NPC

(Registration number 1994/001660/08)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2013

Statement of Financial Position

	Note	2013 R	2012 R
ASSETS			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	23,091	11,822
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables	3	141,158	72,236
Cash and cash equivalents	4	597,539	506,338
		738,697	578,574
TOTAL ASSETS		761,788	590,396
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
EQUITY			
Growth and development fund		651,432	645,328
Retrenchment reserve		214,136	233,627
Operating funds		(435,601)	(465,267)
		429,967	413,688
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	277,561	118,706
Deferred grant income	6	54,260	58,002
		331,821	176,708
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		761,788	590,396



Standing Row (left - right): Nicolette Pingo (left December 2012), Spiro Paxinos, Mike Makwela, Tshidi Morotolo, Simon Mayson (left December 2012), Junior Ramoloto (left December 2012).

Seated Row (left - right): Shumani Luruli, Farai Chapisa, Mary Moloisane, Hermine Engel.

Absent: Frederick Kusambiza-Kiingi

GRATITUDE TO FUNDERS

Planact would like to thank all Grant funding partners for the continued support provided over 01st April 2012 to 31st March 2013. The financial support provided enabled Planact to remain resilient and sturdy in its programme activities. The following funding organisations supported Planact during this period.

- MISEREOR - The German Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development Cooperation / Katholische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe
- Open Society Foundation - South Africa
- The Ford Foundation
- National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund
- German Development Cooperation (GIZ)





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