

PLANACT ANNUAL REPORT



APRIL 2014- MARCH 2015



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Chairperson's Report

April 2014/March 2015

It has been a year of great uncertainty as socio-economic and political changes continued to affect economies globally. Growth in the South African economy slowed down mainly due to high levels of unemployment, industrial action and more recently load-shedding. The treasury forecast growth for the financial year was initially at 2.7% but was revised down to 1.4%. The increasing levels of inequality too continues to pose a threat to our development efforts. It is evident that to achieve the goals outlined in the National Development Plan will require integrated reforms, including among others, better cooperation between government, civil society, the private sector and trade unions.

NGOs continue to play a vital role and have become inseparable from South Africa's efforts of economic, social and political development processes. Working collaboratively, Planact has illustrated support for broader processes of social mobilization and capacity enhancement that is necessary for linking grassroots activities with opportunities, resources and broader advocacy struggles. It has been a year of introspection, in which we have identified and agreed on our priorities, consolidated our work and learned how best to position the organisation in order to achieve our set goals and objectives whilst providing technical and logistical support that strengthens community efforts.

We continue to acknowledge that we cannot on our own, facilitate transformation and therefore we look for opportunities to partner with or support other initiatives whether at a local, national or international level. Indeed, no one stakeholder, whether government, the private sector, trade unions or civil society, has the capacity to work alone but pulling together our assets and strengths gives us a better chance of making meaningful progress as a people. Facilitating community

development processes is a complex endeavour and indeed each stakeholder has roles and responsibilities.

Our experience gained from working at the local level to enhance participatory governance and improve people's habitable environments has affirmed that there is great value in working together, not to perform each other's roles but rather to complement each other. Our interventions go beyond creating awareness among communities that they have rights, to people being confident that they are able to create value and exercise their rights. This approach acknowledges the power of the individuals especially when they seem to be helpless and powerless. Although our engagements are issue-based, for example focusing on housing, water and sanitation, participating individuals are empowered to apply the concepts e.g. the rights-based and asset-based approaches to development, in their day-to-day lives and to use them individually or act together to bring about the desired change.

We look forward to celebrating Planact's 30th year of existence, which is a significant milestone for the organisation. We are proud of the specialist support, advice, resources and networks that we have developed that have enabled us to continue to support community development and build on our strength over the years, as we engage with and learn from each other. I take this opportunity to thank all our staff members for their diligence and dedication to Planact's mission this year, and to my fellow Board of Directors for sharing their insight and experience. I extend our deepest gratitude to all our partners, funders and supporters; thank you all for your invaluable support and contributions.

Seana Nkhahle
Chairperson

Executive Director's Report

April 2014/March 2015

Introduction

This year, Planact has built on the repositioning and restructuring process that the organisation embarked on last year. The exercise has been guided by the demand and supply factors in the sector (micro), as well as the pull and push factors (macro level) that affect our operations. It has been an ongoing pursuit of understanding the environment and making appropriate changes in the organisation to enhance our relevance and the quality of our work. Pushing forward with a more grounded set of programmes and additional capacity, Planact has managed to respond appropriately to the current requirements in the urban development area and also to attract strategic partners to collaborate with, as well as funding partners to support our interventions. We have continued to learn from our interventions, celebrating our successes and more importantly learning from where we realise we could have done things differently.

As we prepare to celebrate Planact's 30th Anniversary and move into another decade of a rapidly changing context, it has become increasingly clear that new integrated approaches to growth and development are necessary to tackle the challenges we face today if we are to achieve acceptable and sustainable standards of living for everyone. Our work this year reaffirmed the fundamentals that are in place that have enabled Planact to contribute to improving people's lives and prospects over the last three decades.

NGO Environment in General

NGOs continue to play a crucial role of facilitating the process of institution building at grassroots level, and have emerged as significant actors in bringing about social transformation, and promoting public participation and democracy. There is no doubt that harsh realities

in the context such as declining donor support amidst increasing levels of unemployment and inequality continue to influence the capacities and strategies of NGOs. Organisations are required to work much harder to stay focused in a constantly changing environment in order to realise their goals of empowerment, social justice, and transformation.

The pressure felt in the sector threatens the vibrancy of civil society, an essential component for structural change. Nevertheless, work related to change in the environment where people live is taking more of the centre stage as NGOs work to promote integrated development and ensure that the voices of the poor are heard.

Programme Arrangements

During this period, Planact continued to focus its efforts on three key programme areas namely, Participatory Governance; Integrated Human Settlements; and Community Economic Development. Details on the progress made during the year across all our core strategies have been provided in the Programme report. Below I will touch briefly on some of the highlights of our interventions.

Water and sanitation has been one of the focus areas for the Participatory Governance programme. Planact has supported poor communities in Gauteng and Mpumalanga Province to organise community representative structures that are able to meaningfully engage with their respective councils to work towards providing water and sanitation. We have noticed a transition from sporadic actions amongst community members to a more consultative approach (to council) when in doubt. Under the Participatory Governance programme we:

- Developed tools that can be replicated at scale, aimed at improving the delivery system of water and sanitation in local councils. The tools will be interrogated at round table discussions with development practitioners, government institutions and identified academic institutions;
- Completed the preparation phase for a Social Audit exercise that is scheduled to take place in various communities in Mpumalanga Province;
- Embarked on a 12-month study of all communities that Planact is working in, to compile baselines as bench marks to use when assessing impact at the end of each intervention;
- Continued to provide technical support to the communities in Thembehle, Cosmo City and Orlando East regarding various local government development related issues.

For the Integrated Human Settlements Programme, again we emphasised the aspect of community participation and, among other things:

- Engaged Goven Mbeki Local Municipality and eMalahleni Local Municipality regarding formalising land tenure for the two informal settlements that we are working with;
- Formalised community representative structures in Kwanzezele informal settlement situated in Lesedi Local Municipality;
- Further engaged Lesedi Local Municipality regarding the upgrading of the Kwanzezele informal settlement, developed alternative layout designs for the proposed changes to the settlements, and designed water reticulation layout for the Kwanzezele informal settlement (about 200 households) to increase the communal taps, while negotiations with the local municipality for the upgrade of the settlement continues.

The plight of citizens being evicted from neglected buildings in the inner city of Johannesburg continues to be a major concern. This year,

Planact's has worked with affected communities to organise those that are affected and form representative structures that are well equipped to engage with their respective local authority. Planact continues to work with like-minded organisations to support the 'right to the city for all', efforts that help the threatened inner city dwellers. As part of our Inclusive Inner Cities' initiative, we also provided social facilitation in getting communities in the area of Garankuwa to access government subsidised housing. This process happened successfully and the lessons gained will be valuable for our future interventions in the City of Johannesburg.

Planact's Community Economic Development Programme aims to illustrate various methods of how organised citizens can identify assets within their surrounds to match to available external resources that they can use to improve their well-being. This year we were able to:

- Start a 12-month organisational development intervention for the Kgothatso Youth Information Centre in Leandra, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality; and
- Investigate and design a developmental intervention for the communities that are situated in and around mining areas in Mpumalanga Province, regarding their quality of living and how Tax Policy and Tax utilisation from the mining companies contributes (if at all) to the communities' well-being.

All the work that Planact has done would not have been possible without the support of a dedicated staff and a committed Board of Directors. I am immensely grateful for all your contributions and remain forward looking and confident that Planact will rise up to the challenges that lie ahead. To the interns, we appreciate the energy and passion that you bring to Planact's activities. To all our partners and funders, thank you very much for your support.

Frederick Kusambiza
Executive Director



PROGRAMMES

1. Programme overview

April 2014/March 2015

Planact's programmes are centred on citizen participation and development of low income communities in South Africa's provinces, where residents often live in vulnerable situations. The three programmes, participatory governance, integrated human settlements and community economic development, are the channels through which project beneficiaries are served. South Africa is characterised by a high rate of inequality, a situation that warrants the implementation of pro-poor developmental programmes. Whilst there is a general realisation that in many developing countries development has been skewed in favour of the middle income class, development practice has inadequately addressed the needs of the poor, in particular, with regard to

service delivery. In the context of South Africa, urban development has often embraced a neo-liberal approach to service delivery which contradicts the rights-based discourse for water and sanitation provision which is entrenched in the constitution. Equally, development efforts have often not been based on participatory, inclusive and accountable development principles. Planact's programmes seek to address this gap by building the capacity of low income residents to participate in local governance, service delivery and economic development processes. Specifically, the three programmes respond to the struggle of the low income communities to access housing and basic services such as water, electricity and proper sanitation.

Planact Programmes

PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

To contribute to processes that will develop the capacity of organizations of civil society in poor, marginalized communities to have a strong presence in local government planning and development processes; and to develop the capacity of local government to rectify systematic breakdown in service provision and at the same time engage local government with communities in a participatory way

**Participatory Budgeting,
Performance & Accountability**

Active Citizenship
Projects: Spring Valley, Leandra,
Thembelihle, Protea South, Cosmo City,
Orlando City

INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Planact provides support and training to vulnerable citizens in facilitating access to land and housing with security of tenure and basic services in order for them to acquire habitable environments and sustainable neighbourhoods. Specific training and support is provided depending upon the needs of the target communities.

Informal Settlements Upgrading
Projects: KwaZenzele, Jabulani,
Spring Valley, eNkanini

Inclusive Inner City
Projects: Johannesburg City

Strengthened Social Movements
Projects: Inner Cities Resource Centre

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Developed communities have access to 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.

**Community Based Organisational
Development**
Projects: Spring Valley, Leandra

Livelihood Improvement
Projects: Spring Valley, Leandra

Figure 1: Planact programme overview

Planact's programmes are implemented in five low income communities; Cosmo City, KwaZenzele, Leandra, Springvalley and Thembelihle. Figure 2 (below) shows the location of the different project areas.

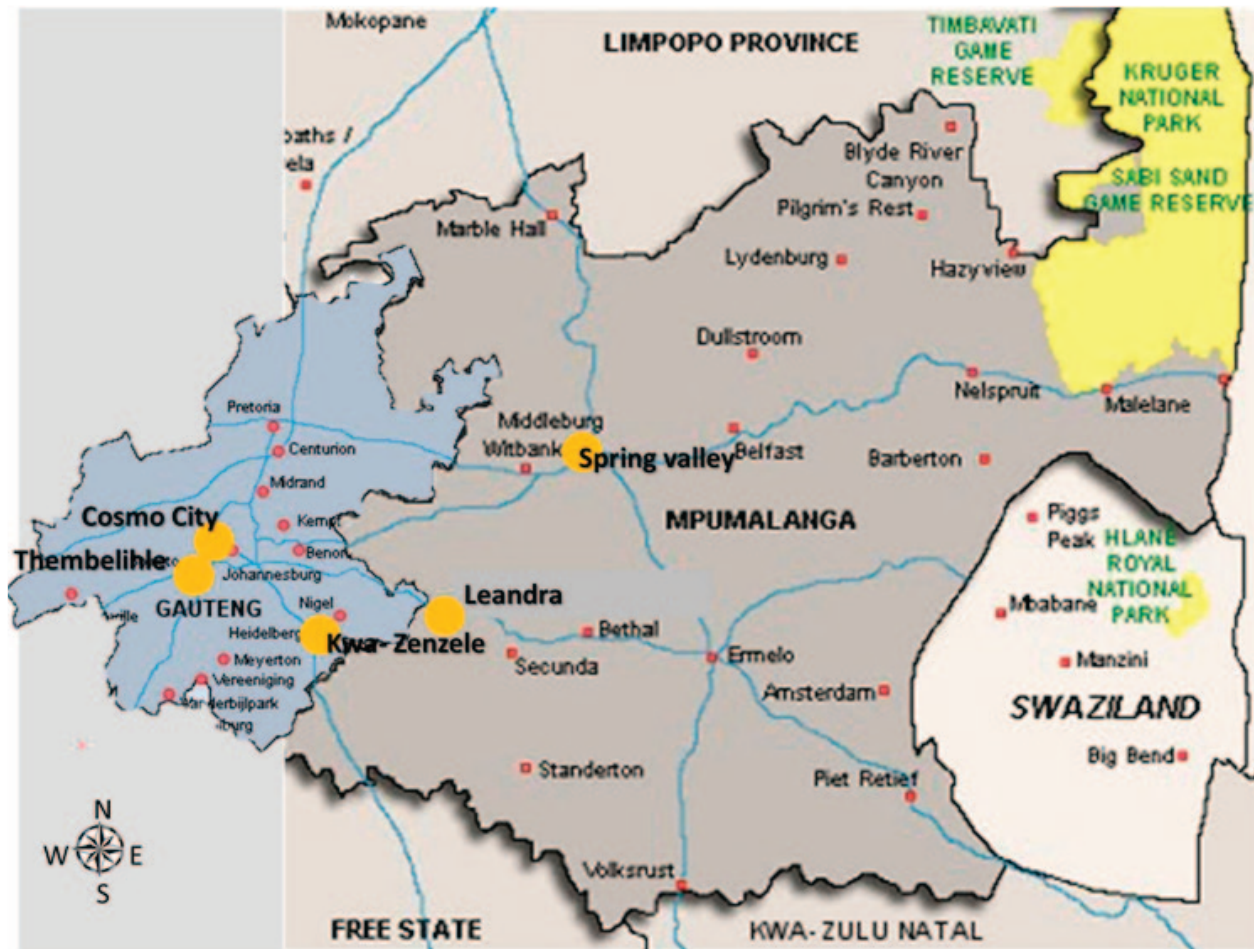


Figure 2: Planact project areas in Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces (Map adapted from Google maps by Planact, 2015)



2. Programmes

2.1 PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

Objective:

To contribute to processes that will develop the capacity of civil society in marginalized low income communities and facilitate citizen participation in local government planning and development processes which include service delivery.

Sub programme 1: Participatory budgeting, performance and accountability

2.1.1 SPRING VALLEY COMMUNITY

CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

Spring Valley is a low- income community of approximately 2,200 households. The community mainly comprises poor households and lacks access to basic services. Most of the households qualify to receive the state housing subsidies aimed at assisting residents earning below R3500 (Urban Land Mark 2013). Spring Valley is situated in a ward that is dominated by the Democratic Alliance Party. In the past, the Emalahleni municipality, led by the African National Congress, did not always give high priority to the development needs of Spring Valley, a situation that can be attributed to political differences.

The Emalahleni municipality was placed under provincial administration in April 2013 as a result of previous maladministration and poor performance. The subordinate status of municipality has compromised the municipality's constitutional mandate to ensure the provision of basic service. Some of the problems faced by the Emalahleni municipality include inconsistent water supply, poor state of infrastructure including roads, electricity and waste water treatment plants, allegations of high levels of corrupt activities by some officials, and high costs of doing business with external service providers. The political decision to reorganise the Emalahleni Local Municipality has had negative effects on the development of Spring Valley community. The two figures below demonstrate inadequate water supply in Springvalley.



Figure 3: Residents collect water from a spring



Figure 4: Water containers placed in a row by residents collecting water from the water tank

Planact's interventions therefore aims at assisting Spring Valley community to address the challenges of poor governance, human settlements as well as lack of sustainable livelihoods. Underpinning Planact's programmes is citizen participation and collective community action which promote responsive local governance.

STRENGTHENING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

In the Spring Valley community, Planact has been involved in capacity building and promoting participatory governance through a number

of development-oriented strategies. The period 2014-2015 saw a series of meetings between community leadership and municipality of eMalahleni. This follows the fact that the Spring Valley Development Committee has been strengthened through workshops on various topics including leadership development and community development. A number of actions have been taken to build capacity within the community, some of which are presented in the table below:

Table 1: Examples of actions

Actions	Objective	Outcome
Compilation of community demands to be presented to the Municipal Administrator.	To document community needs and prepare them for formal submission in a meeting with the Municipal Administrator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A petition stating the demands of the community and the proposed solutions was drafted. - The petition was then submitted to the municipality. - A meeting was held with the Municipal Manager.
Planning for a community protest at Nkangala District Municipality	To develop a strategy on how the community will be organised for the planned mass protest, and how the authorities will be informed so that they can receive the petitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community leadership and stakeholders agreed to hold the community protest on the 21st May 2015. - Each household was to contribute R30-00 towards the expenses of the protest. - A letter requesting the cooperation of other stakeholders (such as taxi associations) in the community protest was drafted.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION AND OUTCOMES

Training sessions have enabled the Spring Valley Development Committee to make meaningful decisions and interact with the local municipality with an enhanced understanding of municipal processes. Similarly, the community has learnt to appreciate their responsibility towards improved local governance, even independently of Planact. During meetings between the Municipality and the community, Planact participated as an observer and advisor to the community leadership. Planact has also assisted the community to draft a petition to the Municipality putting pressure on them to provide basic services. Frequent meetings have been held with the

community, which has committed to actively addressing their basic needs such as water, electricity and sanitation. The meetings yielded positive results, as indicated below:

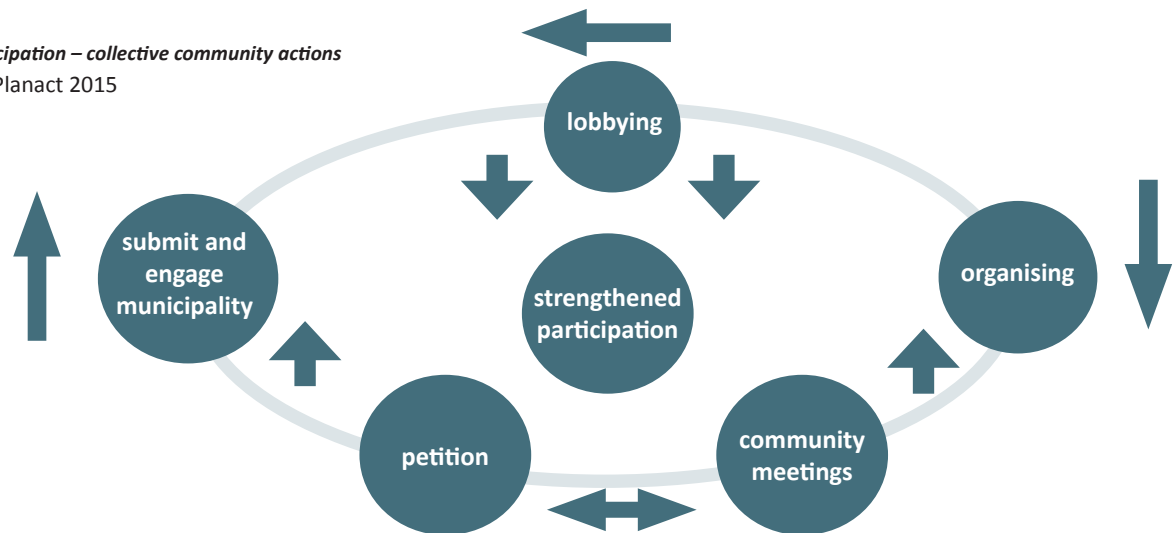
- The meetings led to effective mobilisation of the community and the subsequent commitment to exert pressure to the municipality to provide basic services.
- The development of a petition and its submission to the local and district municipality
- Follow ups with the local and district municipalities in an effort to ensure that the community's demands are met.

Figure 5 below illustrates the collective actions that the Spring Valley community has taken when interacting with the municipality to seek permanent solutions to the lack of services in the area. These actions are not part of a cyclical process, instead they take place as and when

the community decides. The arrows demonstrates the nonlinear actions. However, organising the community underpins all the other actions.

Figure 5: citizen participation – collective community actions

Diagram drawn by Planact 2015



To promote active citizen participation in local governance, Planact has provided support in the form of training, guidance and leadership. This has strengthened the capacity of the community to engage with the municipality to address the community's developmental needs as illustrated in the above diagram. Consequently, the Spring Valley community have become active partners in meeting their development needs to the extent that they proactively and independently lead other development initiatives in the community. For example, the Spring Valley community leadership organised a very successful xenophobia awareness event in 2015. Figure 6 shows residents sitting in a meeting addressing the problem of xenophobia in South Africa.



Figure 6: Spring Valley Community in meeting about Xenophobia



In 2014 the Spring Valley community was actively involved in lobbying the local and district municipalities. They organised themselves to develop a petition, with the assistance of Planact, and presented the petition to the local and district municipality. A copy of the petition is presented below.



The community protest march to the Nkangala District Municipality involved the community's demands being read to the local and district municipal mayors. Upon the receipt of the petition the municipality agreed to provide proper access roads, provision of chemicals for pit toilets and the setting aside of a budget for a solar powered water pump.

The Spring Valley community continues to approach Planact for technical and advisory support on many other socio-political issues affecting their development. Feedback shows that the support Planact provides is appreciated by residents, as Mr Mayaba (a member of the Spring Valley Development Committee) explains:

'The workshops that Planact held with us have been very helpful. The workshop on community participation helped us understand the importance of consulting with the community and that what we do (as a committee) is not for the committee but the community'.

Implicit in Mr Mayaba's statement is that previously the committee did not prioritise consulting the community on issues affecting it. Mr Mayaba explained that:

'The community also learnt how to (effectively) express their needs to the municipality' (Interview with Lucky Mayaba, 2015).

These statements illustrate the positive impact of the training that Planact offers to the Spring Valley community and leadership.

LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Concerted efforts by the Spring Valley Development Committee in conjunction with the community have promoted participatory governance in Emalahleni Municipality. There is also an improved information flow between the committee and the residents, which creates a conducive environment for local community development.

Through the participatory governance programme the community has become increasingly engaged in municipal development processes such as municipal budgeting and integrated development plans. Local people have also become more informed about their rights, as well as their responsibility to demand accountability and transparency from the local municipality.



Figure 8: Community protest to deliver a petition to the district province

2.1.2 LEANDRA COMMUNITY

CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

Leandra is an area experiencing socio economic decline evident in increases in rates of unemployment and poverty. The small semi-rural agricultural settlement with a population of approximately 85000 residents is situated in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality in the Gert Sibande District. For the past five years, Planact has been providing continuous support to the existing local community leadership structure known as Sigalile Development Forum.

STRENGTHENING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Planact has worked with the community of Leandra to establish the Sigalile Development Forum, a community leadership structure intended to facilitate the development initiatives of the Leandra and the eNkanini informal settlements in Lebogang township. The Forum works in partnership with other organisations such as the Leandra Community Centre and Khuthatso Youth Development. Planact actively supports the Sigalile Development Forum to achieve the provision of basic services in the area by the municipality, and to enhance job opportunities in the area by mobilising the community to establish small businesses.

Planact and the Sigalile Development Forum work in partnership on participatory governance activities; in cooperation with government departments housed at the Tholulwazi Thusong Service Centre. The office of the speaker in the Govan Mbeki local municipality has provided information on development of the area and facilitated coordination with other local government departments. Planact has undertaken a number of activities in the Leandra community, a few of which are listed below:

- a. Planact held training sessions on local government processes, procedures and practices with the new members of the Sigalile Development Forum. The training was essential as it enabled forum members to understand how local government works and therefore how to deal with community concerns that require government interventions.
- b. Capacity building sessions were held with the Sigalile Development Forum on the municipal Integrated Development Plan processes. The Sigalile Development Forum has subsequently consulted with the Govan Mbeki local municipality on various service delivery issues such as lack of water and electricity and other development issues affecting Leandra. In preparation for planning the area the Development Forum conducted a household survey to establish the number of residents in the area and their socio-economic needs.



Figure 9: Members of Sigalile Development Forum conducted a household survey in Enkhanini community, 2014.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION AND OUTCOMES

- a. The Siqalile Development Forum has been working hard to bridge the government-community communication divide. Improving the communication flow is essential because most of the community service delivery protests are attributed to a lack of communication on issues affecting the community. In this respect, the Siqalile Development Forum has established linkages with different government departments such as the Environmental Affairs and Social Development to initiate projects on environmental awareness and learners' safety respectively.

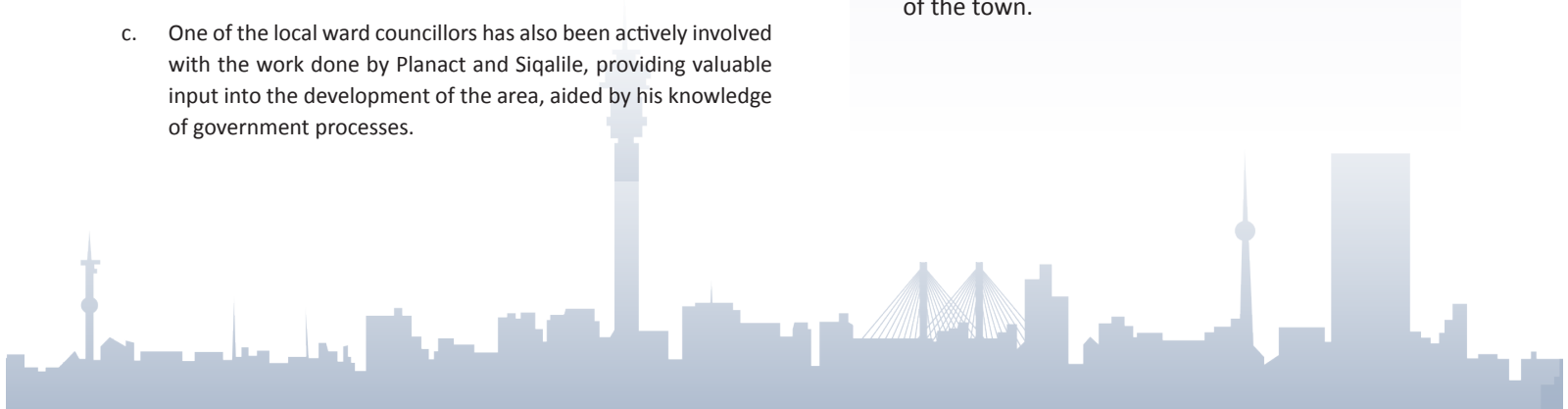


- b. The Siqalile Development Forum assisted the Khuthatso Youth group with an application to the lottery for funding to run their Educational Centre. The application was successfully accepted.
- c. One of the local ward councillors has also been actively involved with the work done by Planact and Siqalile, providing valuable input into the development of the area, aided by his knowledge of government processes.

Zweli Hlatshwayo – Director of Leandra Community Centre

Seeing that Leandra has been in existence since 1904 but there is no tangible development, it looks like the whole town has never been properly planned for by the municipality. The Leandra Community Centre had to look for partners who would assist us to advance the development agenda in our area. Planact came out very handy because of the existing history with Leandra amongst all other organisations we had tabled. In the 80s, Planact started some work in Leandra to assist the people in our community.

He further asserted that, Planact has played a big role in structuring our plan on what to do when you want to develop an area. They took us step by step on the analysis of the whole town. This analysis benefitted us because it is only then that we started to appreciate what we have as a community in both our strengths and weaknesses. Planact also arranged a workshop for all leaders to take them through the analysis of the town.



LESSONS LEARNT AND OPPORTUNITIES

The year 2014-15 presented both opportunities and challenges for Leandra's Siqalile Development Forum.

The Siqalile Development Forum experienced some challenges within the organisation during the same period. At initiation, the Forum was largely made up of young people who expressed eagerness to develop their community and lead the development process. However, the Siqalile Development Forum experienced a rapid exodus of founding members as young members of the association migrated to other areas in search of job opportunities. From the initial founding numbers of more than 20 individuals, the Forum membership got to as low as five active members. A lesson was learnt from the experience and the Forum was subsequently restructured with more emphasis placed on including different community development stakeholders which comprise of members of different ages. In its restructured form, the Siqalile Development Forum now includes Ward Committees, Community Policing Forums and representation from different political organisations.

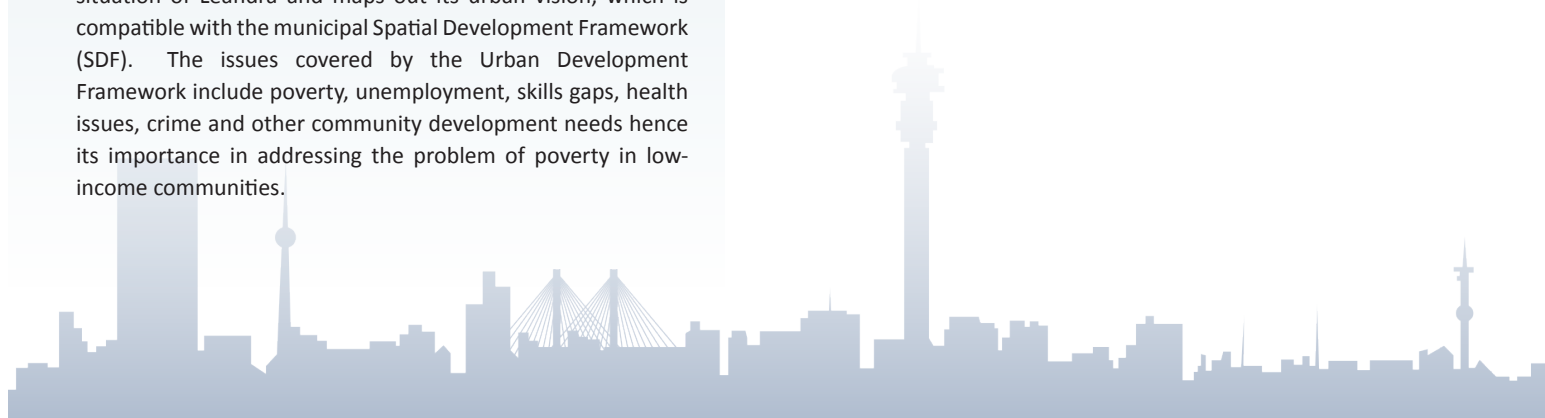
The slow pace of development in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality has led to the continued invasion of land by some residents and this has compromised the dialogue between the Siqalile Development Forum and the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. Currently the Siqalile Development Forum is lobbying the government to implement the Urban Development Framework. The Urban Development Framework is a document which provides an analysis of the socio-economic and political situation of Leandra and maps out its urban vision, which is compatible with the municipal Spatial Development Framework (SDF). The issues covered by the Urban Development Framework include poverty, unemployment, skills gaps, health issues, crime and other community development needs hence its importance in addressing the problem of poverty in low-income communities.

2.1.3. KWAZENZELE INFORMAL SETTLEMENT PHASE II

CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

KwaZenzele Phase II is an informal settlement located in Endicott, east of Johannesburg, in Lesedi Local Municipality. The settlement is located on municipal land adjacent to a railway line. The KwaZenzele community's challenges are mainly related to inadequate basic services such as water supply, sanitation, electricity and refuse collection. The community has 400 households served by only four communal taps. The community is also characterised by poor environmental conditions due to inadequate waste collection. Existing communal ventilated improved (VIP) toilets provided by the municipality were vandalised and are in the state of disrepair, with solid waste not adequately managed. Many of the households do not have refuse bins.

In the beginning of the project, Planact worked in partnership with community volunteers to conduct a baseline study on the community, shack numbering and conducting focus groups to get a better understanding of the state of the community. The community has drawn on the data to input into the integrated development planning meetings. A synopsis of the findings is shown in the box on page 20.



Box 1: Key findings from baseline study on the KwaZenzele Informal Settlement Phase II

- 400 households in the settlement;
- Women comprising 48% of the population, men comprising 32% and young people comprising 20%;
- Insufficient water supply for the community;
- High rate of unemployment in the community, especially amongst young people;
- Insufficient numbers of taps supplying water, putting a particular strain on women residents;
- Lack of electricity in the community;
- Improper sanitation in the community.

STRENGTHENING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

To build capacity within the Kwazenzele community, Planact has facilitated a number of workshops for community leaders, including the following:

Table 1: Examples of workshops delivered by Planact within the Kwazenzele community:

TOPIC	OBJECTIVE	OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
Integrated development planning	Prepare community for input into the IDP process	Community submitted petition to the municipality demanding services. Mayor visited the settlement to engage with the community and hear their demands. Community made meaningful input into the IDP process.
Leadership	Prepare the committee to be able to manage their organisation effectively	The committee is able to conduct their meetings effectively and efficiently. The committee understands the roles and responsibilities of each portfolio.
How local government works	Inform the committee and members of the community on how local government works and how it is constituted	Committee understands the function of local government



Picture 1: Participants in a workshop held in Kwazenzele community hall.

The workshops have considerably contributed towards sustained citizenship participation in the area and enabled the residents to proactively engage in other development initiatives.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION AND OUTCOMES

Planact, in partnership with the community, has installed five new taps. This brings the total of taps in the community to nine. This intervention has had positive effects on the community, and especially women. The intervention has helped to reduce time that the women spend in long queues waiting for their turn to fetch water. Importantly, ten community members worked on the water installation project and were provided with daily allowances to the amount of R100.00 (an equivalent of US\$10.00).

In appreciation of the assistance provided by Planact in the area, an elderly woman in the Kwazenzele community expressed gratitude towards Planact:

'I had to walk for kilometres simply to get water. Sometimes in bad weather conditions it was not even possible to go and fetch the water. My life has become so much easier, thank you Planact'.

LESSONS LEARNT AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Planact's experience in the community has convinced staff of the importance of making a contribution towards addressing the high levels of unemployment and poverty in the settlement. To this end, Planact, in partnership with the committee, has approached the local municipality with a request to make available a piece of land for recycling. This initiative will go a long way in providing livelihood opportunities for some members of the community, and contribute to poverty alleviation.
- Planact is designing an intervention for the youth in the area. This will include career guidance, job placement opportunities, and entrepreneurship and life skills training. This intervention is intended to equip unemployed youth with the necessary skills to access job opportunities.



Picture 2: A woman drawing water from a tap installed by Planact

2.1.4. THEMBELIHLE COMMUNITY:

CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

Thembelihle is an informal settlement located south of Johannesburg. It has been in existence for over 30 years and it is situated in close proximity to Protea South and Lawley. Planact has a long-standing relationship with this community, and has extended over two decades of support and engagement. The purpose of Planact's initial engagement was to foster social cohesion amongst the residents of Thembelihle, to address internal division within the community. Community divisions were manifested in the establishment of several competing committees claiming to represent the Thembelihle community in development forums. The existence of multiple committees in one community made it difficult to facilitate meaningful engagement of community in the development process.

Planact, through intensive engagement with the community, including holding meetings and workshops with tailored structures, the community managed to establish one community development structure known as the Thembelihle Crisis Committee (TCC).

STRENGTHENING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Planact has played a supportive role to the Thembelihle Crisis Committee (TCC) in their efforts to demand water, sanitation and electricity from the municipality. The support provided has included:

- Conducting workshops covering capacity building, conflict resolution and leadership.
- Providing technical support to the community committee and sometimes providing services referrals.
- Assisting the community with drafting petitions to the government and other letters to different potential partners.
- Planact has also conducted leadership training for TCC. The training covered the roles of the executive committee, Chairperson and Secretary.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION AND OUTCOMES

In spite of the fact that the community has been faced with a problem of inadequate access to basic services, they have been able to mobilise themselves and have successfully exerted pressure on the municipal government to address some of their needs. Their mobilisation has also included making a contribution towards the installation of infrastructure components. A trust fund was formed and every household donated a fee into the fund, which was meant to partially meet the costs of providing minimal access to electricity and water. This system reflects the self-reliance and independence characterising the community.

The support that Planact has provided has yielded positive effects in many ways:

- i. The community has engaged in service delivery protests demanding basic services from the government.
- ii. Recently the community met with the Provincial Minister of Human Settlements who asserted that the concerns of Thembelihle are receiving attention.
- iii. The Provincial Minister of Human Settlements has promised to make funding available for geo-tech studies in the area, which will assist in determining the kind of development needed in Thembelihle.

Bhayiza Miya - Thembelihle Community Leader

"The relationship between Thembelihle and Planact dates back to 2000 when we as the community needed a more structured way to deal with issues. It has been a great pleasure to work with Planact because they enabled us to read and understand the constitution of South Africa and also to approach grievances in decision making by our government on service delivery issues in a non-violent manner."

He further stated that previously, would resort to disruptive ways in order to get attention but Planact came with a different avenue of sitting down to engage with the state rather than violently. In 2001, after the resistance to be relocated to Vlakfontein, further south, Planact, geologists and lawyers were instrumental in the struggle to remain in Thembelihle and we have continued to work together since then. (Interview with Bhayiza Miya, 2015)

LESSONS LEARNT AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The importance of social cohesion in a community; a fragmented community is anti- developmental and provides space for manipulation of the community by more powerful actors to their own ends.
- The effective implementation of Planact's participatory governance programme, coupled with cooperation from communities, leads to self-reliant communities that are able to contribute to and facilitate sound development.

2.1.5. COSMO CITY COMMUNITY

CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

Cosmo City is particularly situated in Randburg, north-west of Johannesburg. In terms of the municipal administrative ward, it is located within ward 100 of the City of Johannesburg. It has become a developing suburb with a range of housing topologies which include housing for low income groups and the middle class.

STRENGTHENING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Planact conducted several capacity building workshops for the Cosmo City Development Forum (CCDF). The workshops were primarily held with the representatives from different organisations who constitute CCDF. The expectations of participants is that they will go back to their respective organisations and impart the knowledge gained in the workshops to their entire membership. It is therefore intended that the workshops reach as much of the community as possible.

The workshops covered how local government works, local economic development, leadership, conflict management, IDP and municipal budgets. The workshops are tailor-made for the community and take into consideration their respective circumstances. This is important because communities vary in terms of the level of development.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION AND OUTCOMES

The community was able to contribute meaningfully to the integrated development planning (IDP) process. They were able to articulate their needs clearly without ambiguity. This could be largely credited to the capacity building workshops that Planact has been facilitating in the area on the IDP process.

CCDF, in partnership with Planact, are in the process of documenting the history of Cosmo City. CCDF has developed a call for proposals inviting past and present people who have conducted research about Cosmo City to make available their research papers for publication. This process is critical in preserving the heritage of Cosmo City.

LESSONS LEARNT AND OPPORTUNITIES

In Cosmo City and more widely, participatory governance seems to be associated with addressing pressing community basic needs. Residents have largely lost the enthusiasm to actively participate in local governance as it currently stands. As a consequence, in Cosmo City some residents have embraced an individualistic approach to addressing their needs.



2.2. PROGRAMME 2: INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

OBJECTIVE

Provide support and training to vulnerable citizens in facilitating access to land and housing with security of tenure and basic services in order for them to acquire habitable environments and sustainable neighborhoods.

2.2.1. SPRING VALLEY - INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING

Planact has continued to support the community of Spring Valley in their efforts to have the settlement officially recognised by the municipality, and ultimately upgraded to more habitable and decent dwellings. Planact and the Spring Valley Development Committee have been involved in numerous consultations with the Emalahleni municipal administrator and the local municipal mayor with regard to the development of the area. The interactions have mainly focused on recognition, upgrading of the informal settlement, and community involvement in local governance.

The recognition that the community seeks concerns the fact that municipality should refrain from relocating them, instead formally provide them with secure tenure in the same settlement they are currently occupying. In the year 2014/2015 the Emalahleni municipality explicitly stated that it had no plans to upgrade the Spring Valley settlement, instead intends to act in favour of relocating the settlement. Exacerbating the situation was the continued sustained resistance from the adjacent higher income settlements to the current location of Spring Valley. The concerns of the affluent neighbouring settlements centred on possible devaluation of their property and perceived increase in the rate of crime in the area.

The community of Spring Valley does not want to consider relocation as they prefer to remain at their current location, which has access to reliable transport, services and employment opportunities. Planact has supported the community in regard to the following:

RECOGNITION

- Recognising the settlement
- Provide security of tenure to residents

UPGRADING

- No relocation
- Installing infrastructure

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Participatory planning
- All residents benefit

- Planact and the Spring Valley Development Committee have been actively engaging the Emalahleni local municipality and the Nkangala district municipality to initiate the processes of informal settlements upgrading. Planact has continually supported the community of Spring Valley in the negotiations with the municipalities regarding upgrading.

- ## PROPOSED DESIGNS



Figure 12:Community drawing a layout plan of the area

2.2.2. ENKHANINI- INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS UPGRADING

Enkhanini informal settlements are various pockets of informal dwellings located in different places in and around Lebogang township. The informal settlements differ in size and character. Some are located on land that could be upgraded in-situ, while some are located on land that has been zoned for agricultural purposes. A significantly large portion of Enkhanini is located on a marshy floodplain that is unsuitable for habitation. Squalile Development Forum and Planact's activities on informal settlement upgrading are focussed on Enkhanini.

A baseline study was conducted in Enkhanini to get detailed information on the informal settlement. The intention was to draw on the study for the planning purposes. The study provided Planact and Squalile with data on the profile and development needs of the community. The study revealed that Enkhanini is faced with problems of inadequate water supply, lack of electricity, poor sanitation and high unemployment.

The results were shared with the local municipality in negotiations for the upgrading activities of Enkhanini. Planact will continue lobbying the municipality to provide more details for the upgrading of the informal settlement.

2.2.3. KWAZENZELE- INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS UPGRADING

A participatory 'informal settlement upgrading campaign' document is developed and used by communities to engage government. The communities actively participate in human settlements development planning and, as a result, are able to advocate for and access human settlement development programmes that are best suited to improve their living conditions (for example land titles or security of tenure, access to well-located land, informal settlement upgrading, housing, access to rental accommodation or sustainable livelihoods).

Planact has provided the following to local community

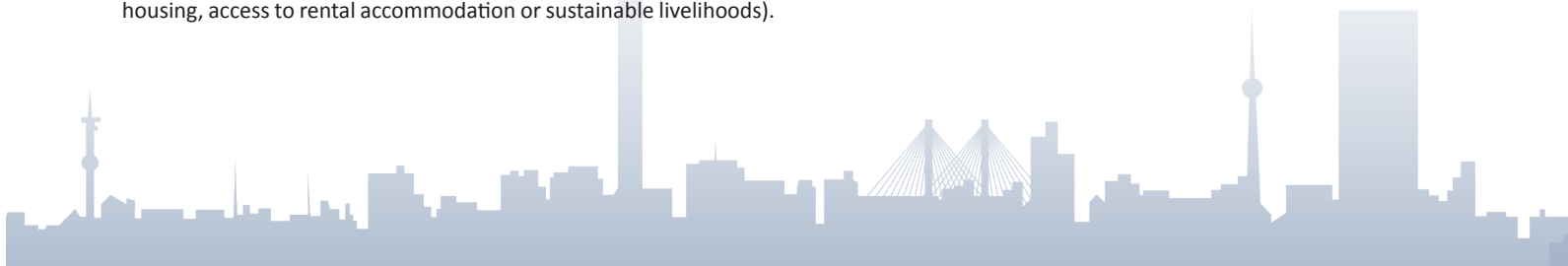
- Training 300 members of 12 community-based organisations from at least 3 communities on issues of local development, housing, land rights, access to land, integrated informal settlement upgrading and income-generating measures for sustainable livelihoods
- Support for 12 community-based organisations from 3 communities in gaining access to housing subventions or to local funds for settlement development

2.2.4. THEMBELIHLE - INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS UPGRADING

Planact provides support to the Thembelihle community in their efforts to persuade the municipality to upgrade the area rather than relocate them. This year the City has appointed a service provider to undertake a geotechnical investigations after complaints were received that the decision taken by the City not to develop Thembelihle was based on insufficient information. The community had previously indicated that they had their own geotechnical engineer, whom they wished to work together with the City's geotechnical engineer to assess the geotechnical issues of Thembelihle and make recommendations on the development of the settlement. City Power/Eskom identified Thembelihle as a settlement requiring electrification and water. The Housing department also noted a need for properties to be properly aligned to allow for access to the area for maintenance purposes.

The negotiation held between Planact, Thembelihle community leadership and the municipality have been successful.

The Provincial Department of Human Settlements has identified the area as a potential housing project site and included in Johannesburg Region plans for 2015/2016 financial year.



2.2.5. INCLUSIVE INNER CITY

As of 2014, Planact intends to extend its programmes to the inner city. The organization recognizes that inner city residents are also often confronted with a lack of basic services, and face similar challenges to those in the peri-urban informal settlements of Gauteng and Mpumalanga where Planact works. Since there are already other non-governmental organisations working in the inner city and addressing different issues such as litigation, human and housing rights, Planact sees a gap in the area of organizing and educating the residents about participatory governance, municipal processes regarding service delivery and livelihoods strategies. For this reason, as from the next financial year beginning April 2015, Planact plans to work together with the Socio-economic Rights Institute of South Africa and the Inner City Resource Centre. The entry point for Planact's work will be the inadequate housing that is often occupied by the poor, who struggle to find affordable housing in the city.



Figure 13: Example of inadequate housing in the city of Johannesburg

Planact aims to embrace a participatory approach in the process of deliberating possible initiatives and strategies that might improve people's quality of life in the inner city. The organisation will conduct studies and host consultative meetings in order to gain input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders. This approach reflects Planact's

conviction that inner city residents' problems cannot be solved by one organization alone, but require cooperation between multiple stakeholders. Specifically, housing problems in the inner city are interconnected and cut across multi-sectoral institutions and as such cannot be effectively dealt with using a non-integrated approach.



2.3. PROGRAMME 3: COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE

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

SPRING VALLEY COMMUNITY

2.3.1. LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT

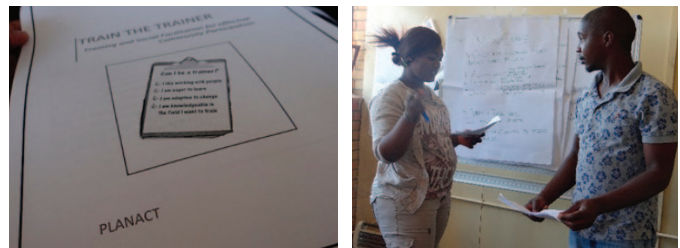
Spring Valley community has low levels of economic activity, which has negative impacts on the sustainable livelihoods of residents. Minimal entrepreneurial activities take place in the settlement as most people prefer to go to Emalahleni town and the nearby mines to look for work. In an effort to stimulate economic development, Planact, Spring Valley Development Committee and the Emalahleni local municipality held extensive discussions to establish local businesses that will manage the refuse removal processes. On successful implementation, entrepreneurs with bakkies(trucks) will be contracted to remove refuse and they will employ local youth that will be responsible for collecting the solid waste from households. Each household will have a fixed monthly payment that will fund the business operations. The anticipation is that the solid waste business will contribute towards reducing the level of unemployment in the area.

2.3.2. COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One of Planact's goals in working in the communities with community structures and representatives is to ensure that there is transfer of skills and knowledge within the community. The organisation follows a planned process to build the capacity of community representatives so that they are able to continue with participatory techniques beyond Planact's project support.



Planact Coordinator Shumani facilitating a training session.



Objectives:

- To train the Trainer by equipping a number of community volunteers to build their skills and knowledge, who in turn train other community members.
- To introduce social facilitation concepts and techniques to the community volunteers, to build their social facilitation skills and knowledge.
- To build the understanding of community volunteers on reasons and processes for monitoring and evaluation.

In September 2014, two workshops were held in different project sites, Leandra and Spring Valley, with 10 volunteers participating in the training at each site. The training was run for three days each, allowing for the participants to practice some of the techniques on the third day.

The participants were able to learn the skills required to be a trainer (no matter what the subject matter), how to conduct themselves, to behave when engaging with adults in the community when sharing new information and also to encourage young people's participation in community development.

The second part of the training enabled participants to gain an understanding on the concept of social facilitation and what it entails.

Most of the participants in Leandra recognized that some of the work they have been doing in the community entails some aspects of social facilitation, for example advocacy for youth programmes and lobbying municipal entities for service delivery issues.

The last part of the content in the training focused on Monitoring and Evaluation. Participants understood the concepts and techniques in relation to monitoring the work they do in the community, but were also made aware of issues around monitoring service delivery by local municipalities. The concepts of social audits were also introduced to the teams.

The training sessions were a success in both the project sites. However challenges included engaging participants who were nursing mothers and those who had children at local day care centres. Another challenge was participants' primary interest in pursuing job opportunities rather than engaging in local community activism.

Planact continues to empower communities with facilitation and monitoring skills, which trained community members then impart to other residents. In Spring Valley, during the financial year 2014/2015 the trained community members will be involved in the steering committee that will conduct the social audits process for water provision by a contractor engaged by the municipality.



3. Advocacy and Networking

Some of the advocacy and networking activities undertaken by Planact during the year under review.

National Sanitation Summit – Building a People’s Plan for Sanitation and Dignity

In April 2014, Planact participated in a seminar organised by Social Justice Coalition to discuss and plan for improved access and delivery of sanitation and other basic services. The objectives of this seminar were:

1. To undertake engagements on the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) water and sanitation report and its recommendations;
2. To develop a People’s Plan for sanitation and dignity that will build on, and
3. To support struggles faced by communities across South Africa.

Informal settlements are faced with the challenge of inadequate access to sufficient water and sanitation and decent sanitation in South Africa.

Raith Foundation and Ford Foundation Reflection and Learning Workshop

As a grantee of the Raith Foundation, Planact participated in the grantees learning workshop. The purpose of this workshop was to support grantees on how civil society can help improve state performance in achieving social justice outcomes; to provide grantees the opportunity to reflect on donor activism and to update

grantees on development amongst donors. The different Raith grantees reported on the emerging issues in their different sectors.

The Raith Foundation advised NGOs to focus on empowering communities to improve government accountability.

Good Governance Learning Network – State of Local Government Launch

Planact, as a member of the Good Governance Learning Network, participated in members’ quarterly meetings. During the month of June, a report on the State of Local Government (SLG) 2015 was launched under the theme: “In Pursuit of Responsible and Responsive Local Government”. The SLG was written under the following themes:

- Responsive planning and responsible implementation: improving good local governance in the Integrated Development Planning process.
- In search of responsible and responsive local governance.
- Democratisation of rural local government.
- Holding the state to account through community-based monitoring.

City of Johannesburg – Inner City Transformation Road Map

This workshop focused on the sharing of the roadmap for the next 5 years with external stakeholders expressing the way forward and the ten work streams that will be initiated.



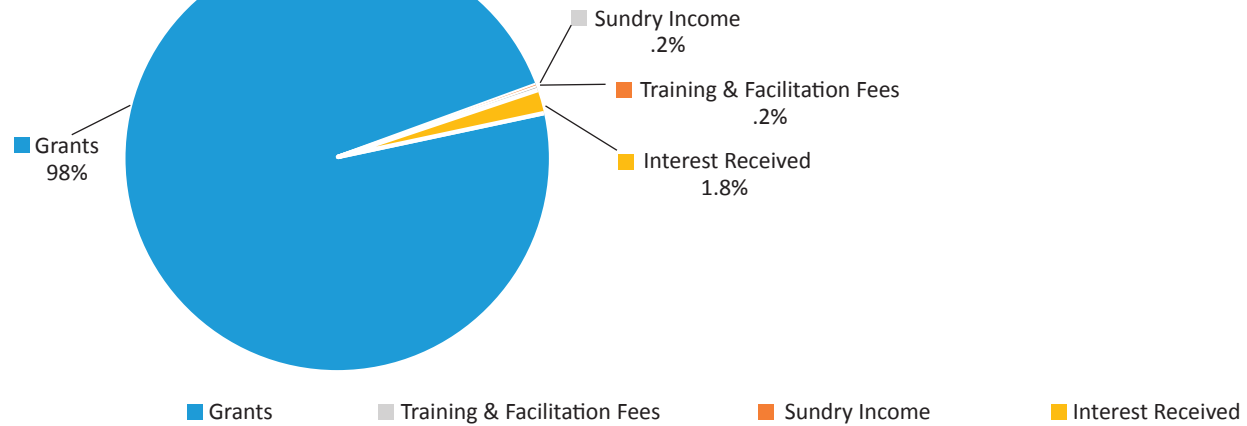
4. Finance and Administration

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

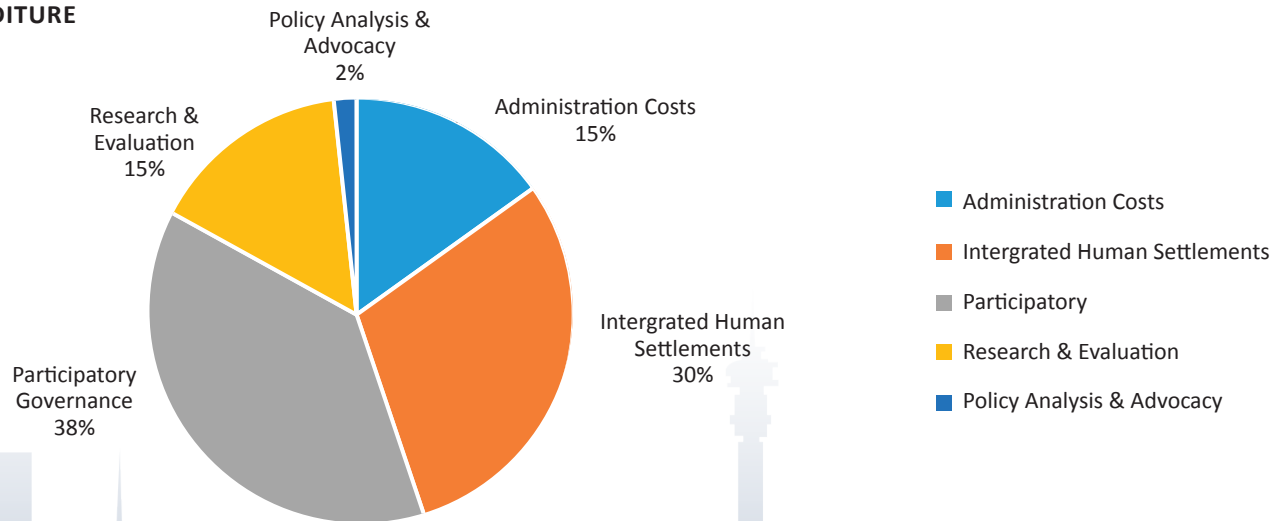
	2015		2014	
	R		R	
Revenue				
Grants	2 873 725	98%	1 611 566	64%
Training & Facilitation Fees	6 142	0.2%	810 149	32%
Sundry Income	6 399	0.2%	64 546	3%
Interest Received	53 262	1.8%	22 625	1%
Total	2 939 528		2 508 886	
Expenditure				
Administration Costs	465 506	15%	487 175	20%
Intergrated Human Settlements	915 234	30%	691 807	28%
Participatory Governance	1 176 729	38%	889 466	36%
Research & Evaluation	470 692	15%	355 786	14%
Policy Analysis & Advocacy	52 299	2%	39 532	2%
Total	3 080 459		2 463 766	
Profit for the year	(140 931)		45 120	



REVENUE



EXPENDITURE



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