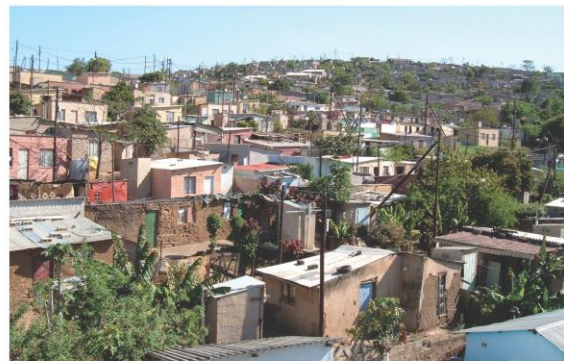


INTRODUCTION TO INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING

NATIONAL UPGRADING SUPPORT PROGRAMME



human settlements

Department:
Human Settlements
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The Introduction to Informal Settlement Upgrading course was developed by a team comprising:

Shisaka Development Management Services (Pty) Ltd.
University of Witwatersrand, Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies
Jill Schlachter HRD and Performance Consulting

The writers of the course material comprised:

Gemey Abrahams
Jhono Bennett
Sarah Charlton
Clive Foster
Ros Gordon
Marie Huchzermeyer
Neil Klug
Costanza La Mantia
Adrian Masson
Mark Misselhorn
Claudia Morgado
Matthew Nell
Lauren Royston
Jill Schlachter
Eric Wright

The Reference Group comprised:

Brendan Boyce
Thando Madonsela
Lockson Mashiloane
Monty Narsoo
Taki Sithagu
Steve Topham
Johan Wallis

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Bongani Molefe

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the NUSP Introduction to Informal Settlement Upgrading course!

What is NUSP?

The National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP) is an initiative of the National Department of Human Settlements (NDHS), which is aimed at improving the practice of informal settlement upgrading in South Africa. The NUSP has four objectives:

- Promote incremental upgrading (*in situ* where possible) as a major complementary housing programme, in line with Part 3 of the National Housing Code;
- Support the National Delivery Agreement target to improve basic infrastructure, services and land tenure for informal settlement households;
- Improve government's programmatic approach to upgrading and strengthening coordination with other sectors and partners;
- Strengthen the capacity of government and professional practitioners to implement community-based incremental upgrading.

NUSP has three broad activity streams:

- Provision of technical assistance to provinces and municipalities for the development and implementation of upgrading programmes and projects;
- Capacity building and training to practitioners and community members in the field of informal settlement upgrading;
- Knowledge services and information dissemination to the upgrading community of practice.

NUSP works with all provinces and a selected group of 53 municipalities, which account for approximately 75% of all informally settled households in the country.

This course forms part of the NUSP capacity building activity stream.

Why is NUSP providing this course?

The National Delivery Agreement has placed a new emphasis on informal settlement upgrading. There is a need for all parties who plan and implement informal settlement upgrading programmes and projects to understand this new area of work in detail, with its emphasis on promoting security of tenure, basic services and community empowerment. It is also an opportunity for communities to participate meaningfully in project planning and implementation.

Who is the course for?

The target group for the course is municipal or provincial officials, professionals within the built environment sector and community leaders and politicians who are working within an actual, planned or potential informal settlement upgrading programme or project.

What is the purpose of the course?

South Africa has developed a progressive and comprehensive policy framework for the in situ or incremental upgrading of informal settlements. This is largely set out in Part 3, Chapter 13 of the National Housing Code and is a core element of the Comprehensive Plan for the Creation of Sustainable Human Settlements, also known as Breaking New Ground, as well as more recently the National Development Plan, Vision for 2030 (2011).

Nevertheless, local authorities have found that in-situ and incremental upgrading is challenging and they have expressed a need for implementation support.

The purpose of this course is to support effective informal settlement upgrading in South Africa in a manner that leads to the progressive transformation of informal settlements into sustainable human settlements, thereby contributing to reducing poverty and improving the lives of the poor.

The unique contribution that the Introduction to Informal Settlement Upgrading course will make is to provide a planned, structured learning intervention to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes amongst people who are working within informal settlement upgrading programmes or projects.

What will you gain from attending the course?

Participants who complete the course should be able to:

- Adopt upgrading as an effective strategy to respond to the needs of the urban poor
- Use their knowledge of the principles, policies, programmes and instruments available to contribute to the planning and implementation of informal settlement projects and incremental transformation into sustainable human settlements

- Recognise the importance of the social and livelihoods dimension of informal settlement upgrading and of community participation in the process.
- Encourage and support innovative and appropriate solutions for project layouts and service provision and infrastructure, financing an informal settlement upgrading project, tenure regularisation, and an incremental approach to shelter.

Course content and structure

This course consists of 13 modules. It is recommended that the modules should be delivered in 4 training blocks. There is a work-integrated assignment to complete at the end of each block, for submission at the next block. There will be breaks of a number of weeks between the training blocks so that you can complete the assignments. The course is structured as follows:

Block 1 (4 days): The Mandate

National government has created the legislative and policy framework for informal settlement upgrading. Block 1 is called ‘The Mandate’ to reinforce that local government is mandated by national government to deliver the vision behind the policies and targets.

Block 1 aims to equip you with relevant concepts, information and analysis to understand informal settlement upgrading and the fundamental principles upon which the South African policies are based. It provides the case for adopting upgrading as an effective strategy to respond to the needs of the urban poor. It will provide a deeper understanding of the social dimensions of informal settlements, so that you can work to strengthen social capital and livelihoods in the design and implementation of upgrading projects. The course highlights the importance of community participation in informal settlement upgrading, both for empowerment of the poor and incremental transformation into sustainable human settlements. The block also gives an overview of the key policies and programmes that relate to informal settlement upgrading.

Block 1	
Day 1	Introduction
	Module 1: The case for upgrading
Day 2	Module 1: The case for upgrading continued
	Module 2: Social dimensions of upgrading
Day 3	Module 3: Upgrading policies and programmes
	Module 4: Participatory approaches

Day 4	Module 4: Participatory approaches continued
	Block 1 conclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work integrated assignment • Course evaluation

Block 2 (2 days): A Programmatic Approach

After confirming the mandate in Block 1, Block 2 focuses on the new approach to informal settlement upgrading which is through a programmatic approach at municipal level. Module 5 covers the need for prioritised programmes at a municipal level; Module 6 looks in more detail at interim arrangements where in situ upgrading may be delayed or where it is not feasible, and at relocations – when they are necessary and how they should best be managed, with respect for human rights and dignity.

Block 2	
Day 1	Welcome and introduction to Block 2
	Presentation and assessment of Block 1 work-integrated assignments
	Module 5: Municipal upgrading programmes
Day 2	Module 6: Interim arrangements and relocations
	Block 2 conclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work integrated assignment • Course evaluation

Block 3 (3 days): Key Upgrading Components

From looking at the big picture in Block 2, each of the modules in Block 3 looks at a specific component of informal settlement upgrading: securing tenure, layout and services, and improving the dwelling or house. Each module will present the options available, provide examples of good practice and inform you of current policy instruments and approaches that can be used in incremental upgrading.

Block 3	
Day 1	Welcome and introduction to Block 3
	Module 7: Securing tenure

Day 2	Module 8: Layout and infrastructure
Day 3	Module 9: Incrementally improving houses
	Block 3 conclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work integrated assignment • Course evaluation Presentation and assessment of Block 2 assignments

Block 4 (4 days): Planning Upgrade Projects

This block deals with putting all the elements together and making the project happen, and focuses largely on the settlement level response plan. Module 10 covers planning for projects at the settlement response level. Module 11 focuses on financing an upgrading project, including the sources, conditions and applicability of various sources of development finance. Module 12 focuses on institutional arrangements at the programme and the settlement levels, so that all the required actors are coordinated and implementation will occur. Finally, the course ends with a module on sustaining the improvements that have been made in the upgraded informal settlements

Block 4	
Day 1	Welcome and introduction to Block 4
	Module 10: Planning upgrade projects
Day 2	Module 11: Financing
Day 3	Module 12: Institutional arrangements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Block 3 Work integrated assignment (start)
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Block 3 Work integrated assignment (continued)
	Module 13: Sustaining improvements
	Block 4 conclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course evaluation

Assessment

Assessment will take the form of work-integrated assignments and there may also be knowledge assessments on each block. Each of the 4 blocks will have a work-integrated assignment.

The work-integrated assignment will require that you engage with real, actual informal settlements and real programmes or projects that are planned or actually happening. The assignment must be completed between the end of one block and the start of the next block. You will present a portfolio of evidence showing how you have integrated what you learnt on the block, with the work you do in informal settlement upgrading.

Block 1 assignment: will be presented on Day 1 of Block 2

Block 2 assignment: will be presented on Day 1 of Block 3.

Block 2 assignment: will be presented on Day 1 of Block 4.

Block 4 assignment: will be delivered 2 weeks after the end of Block 4, at a specially convened assessment session.

Some tasks within the work-integrated assignments may be done in pairs or groups so that one of the outcomes from the course can be the building of relationships amongst the various role players. However, for certification purposes, each group member's contribution must be unique and identifiable.

Case studies and other learning activities will be used for group work and formative assessment on course.

Certification

You will receive a certificate if you successfully complete the course. Your facilitator will explain who will provide the certificate for the course that you are attending, as this may vary amongst the different regions where the course is conducted.

Minimum certification requirements:

- Understanding demonstrated in full participation in all group activities;
- All work-integrated assignments:
 - Submitted timeously
 - Submitted individually
 - Meet the criteria to be assessed as competent
- Full course attendance: no blocks or modules missed unless with prior arrangements or documentary evidence to support absence.

Articulation options

At the time of preparing this course material, there is no articulation with any qualification registered on the NQF. Thus, the course is not automatically credit-bearing towards a qualification. The Department of Human Settlements is exploring the options for the course to be credit-bearing so that participants who successfully complete the course can earn credits towards a qualification. Work is being undertaken to align the course with NQF qualifications in line with the NDHS strategy to professionalise the housing sector.

ACTIVITY: PERSONAL LEARNING

Type of activity: Individual

Timing: 5 min + 15 min group discussion

The Purpose of this Activity:

To identify your personal learning needs and objectives with regard to informal settlement upgrading;

To enable the course facilitator to understand the challenges and learning priorities of the course participants

Instruction:

Respond to the questions below.

1. Which aspects of informal settlement upgrading would you like to learn more about?

2. Which aspects of informal settlement upgrading do you feel most confident about?

3. What do you find most challenging when working in the context of informal settlement upgrading?
