PLANNING *for* INFORMALITY

Webtool

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uKESA webinar
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PLANNING *for* INFORMALITY

Finding information on how cities are responding to informal settlements and backyarders is hard to come by, and requires insight into reporting systems of municipalities. Planning for Informality, an initiative of Isandla Institute, presents the strategies adopted by the eight metropolitan municipalities of South Africa.

By better understanding the policies, programmes and projects promoted by cities, better decisions and analysis can be made by government officials, community leaders, NGO programme managers, journalists and concerned citizens. We also provide Insights and welcome collaboration.

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Why the P4I tool?

- Instil greater transparency & accountability around plans and progress on ISU
- Realised metros report on ISU upwards not outwards; not much accountability to communities. Arose from CoP engagements (2014/15) and NUSP engagements
- Initial plan was performance tracking tool: measure commitment & progress by assessing ISU plans and reporting; augment with social accountability to give community voice on how they see progress
- Realised almost impossible to access internal documents & data. So focussed on public documents as indicator of commitment & progress.
- Make public data more accessible to more stakeholders, esp. civil society, so can be used in engagements with metros
- As more nuanced internal approaches to ISU not captured in documents, created “contribute” function as part of tool, so officials could add more to picture.
- Drew on reference group consisting of NUSP & other public and CSO stakeholders

What is it meant to do?

- Focuses on fostering just, equitable, sustainable and democratic urban settlements
- National Government has set certain targets and has made commitments to ISU
- Tool indicates commitments of eight largest South African cities to upgrading informal settlements and – more recently – improving backyard dwelling conditions
- Hoped that eventually users not only gain a better understanding of their city's upgrading strategies, but that tool is used to ultimately advance progressive human settlement agenda

Potential users

Profile 1: **Government officials**

- Oversight, key areas of capacity support required.
- Evidence for incentives, comparison over time/ progression, development of new performance criteria

Profile 2: **CSOs**

- Reliable source of information, informed decision making, programme design
- Digestable 'bite-size' information pieces, ongoing reference

Profile 3: **Concerned citizens**

- Change in discourse, digestible information, shape a research/ advocacy agenda
- Issue-based, thematic, visualisation, writing about informal settlements

Profile 4: **Community leaders/members**

- Understand the extent of informality, the municipality's approach to upgrading, key contacts
- Drawback: information on settlement-level will not be available

Methodology

- Using public municipal documents, tool assesses policy commitments, programmes and projects of each metro in line with guidelines for best practice, e.g. incremental and participatory upgrading
- Over 40 indicators across 5 categories/themes
- Scorecard system used to gauge performances and commitments of metro municipalities; each category receiving evidence score (ranging from strong evidence to weak evidence)
- Is not qualitative assessment of metro strategies
- Updated annually once all the core municipal documents for that financial year have been released by metros, and assessed for scorecards by Isandla Institute
- Partnership with Open Cities Lab (OCL) to develop and maintain tool

Indicator Development

Indicators were developed per assessment category, and guidelines for application accompany each indicator.
Each indicator is explained in the Index.Based on the analysis and evidence gathered, Isandla Institute developed more than 40 indicators organised in five categories:

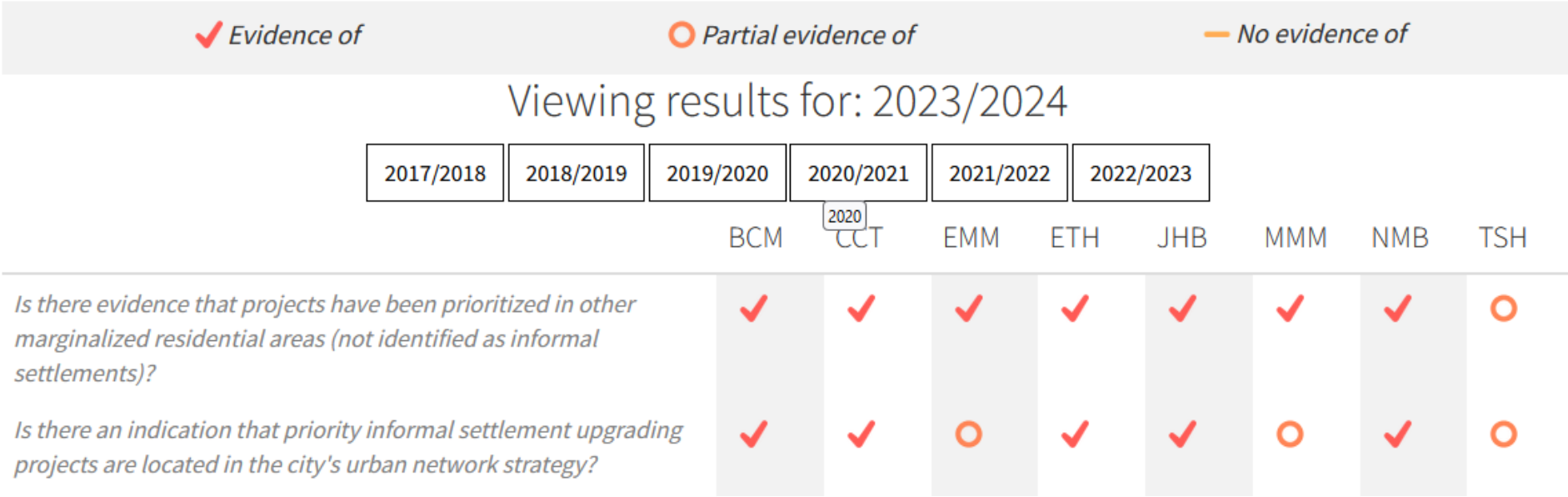
Council adoption of an informal settlement upgrading strategy;

Council adoption of a backyarder support plan;

Forward planning, land assembly and land release;

Progress against MTEF targets towards 2019;and
Participation and empowerment.

Data Index



- Each indicator rated as strong, partial or weak evidence
- Clicking on data index, takes you to data set which shows source documents on which each indicator score is based.

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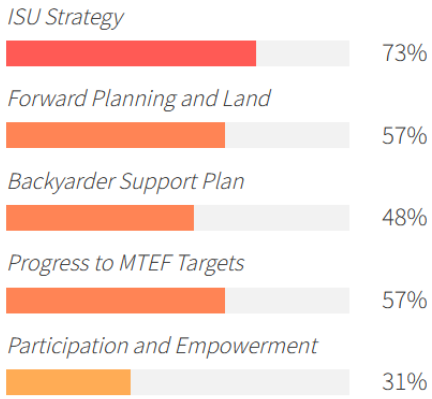
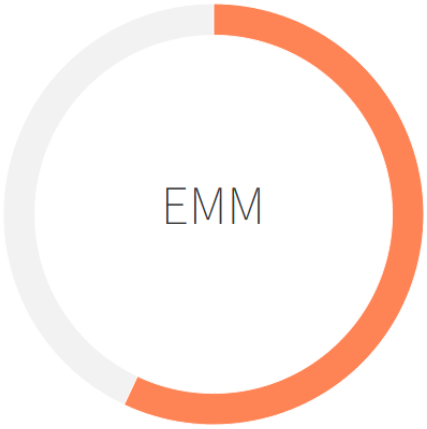
Data Index

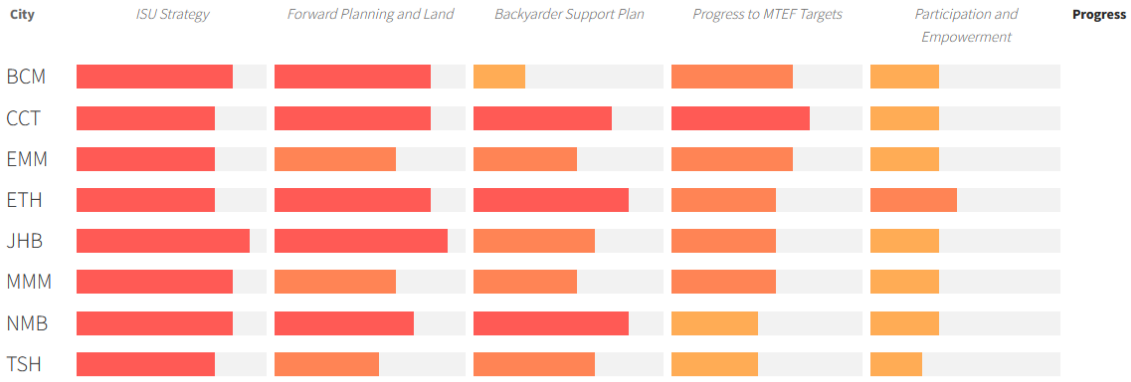
Has a department been assigned to take responsibility for the strategy?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Is the essence of the upgrading strategy upfront apparent?	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	○	✓	○
Is the city council's adopted strategy appropriate response to the scale of informality?	✓	○	○	○	○	✓	○	○
How many houses are delivered per annum?	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○
Timeframe to eradicate backlog conventionally (years)	○	✓	–	✓	○	○	○	○
Is there a clear indication of the extent of housing demand/ backlog?	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○
# of IS (smallest unit defined)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○
# of people living in informal settlements	○	✓	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○
Annual IS growth rate	○	✓	○	○	○	✓	✓	○
% of municipal population	○	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	○
% of Provincial total	○	✓	○	○	○	✓	✓	○
# HH living in informal settlements	○	✓	○	✓	○	✓	✓	○
Progress	◕	◕	◕	◕	◕	◕	◕	◕

City scorecard

Progress Breakdown







View Methodology View Key Terms

City profiles

Ekurhuleni

Download as PNG

Ekurhuleni, a city of 3.1 million, faces a significant housing crisis. It is estimated that the housing backlog is 450,000, which can be disaggregated as follows: informal settlements (35%), backyarders (45%), waiting list (10%) and overcrowded hostels (10%). 119 informal settlements have been identified, and the city has adopted an Informal Settlement Upgrading Policy/Strategy focused on incremental upgrading and the provision of serviced sites.

Municipal targets for capital expenditure are projected to decrease by 9% pa (38 000 households). This means that with the ISUPG, R11000 per household has theoretically been allocated for upgrading. Between 2001 and 2011, approximately 24 990 housing units were delivered. At this pace of delivery, it will take 210 years to eradicate the housing backlog, ignoring population growth.

- Tool also offers descriptive profile for each metro, with progress breakdown for each category. Can take closer look at metro's demographics and key stats

Insights

Enabling the Right to Build through Housing Support Centres in informal settlement upgrading and the development of backyard rental accommodation

For many people living in South African towns and cities, access to public housing or affordable rental housing is limited. They end up living in informal settlements and informal backyard dwellings. Amid the housing shortage and budget constraints, government is shifting focus to provid...

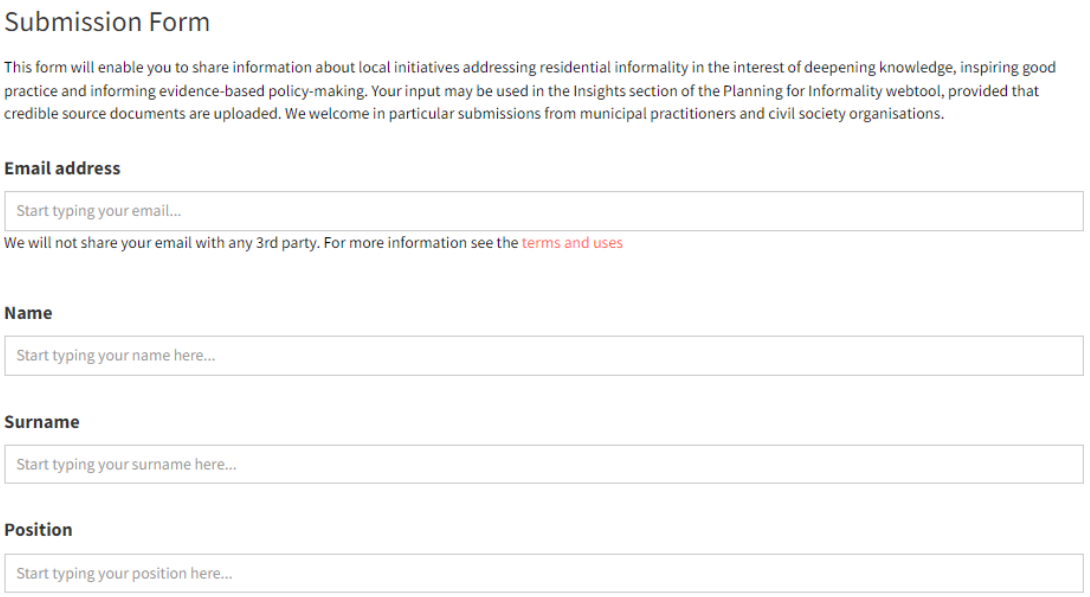
Providing services to undocumented foreign migrants in informal settlements

The gang rape of eight women in Krugersdorp last month has once again turned the spotlight on African foreign migrants in South Africa. Following the horrific incident, the South African Police Service (SAPS) has been cracking down on illegal miners, known as zama zamas, who were believe...

READ MORE

The tool also offers monthly Insights **(**blogs posts) related to ISU and backyard housing sector and allows comments and sharing to social media platforms

Contribute



Submission Form

This form will enable you to share information about local initiatives addressing residential informality in the interest of deepening knowledge, inspiring good practice and informing evidence-based policy-making. Your input may be used in the Insights section of the Planning for Informality webtool, provided that credible source documents are uploaded. We welcome in particular submissions from municipal practitioners and civil society organisations.

Email address

Start typing your email...

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Name

Start typing your name here...

Surname

Start typing your surname here...

Position

Start typing your position here...

Allows submission of feedback and data via upload function, which goes through review process once submitted. Specifically intended to augment the limitations of upward reporting with qualitative, project-specific data and lessons.

Limitations and assumptions

- Tool is intended to strengthen transparency & accountability around municipal upgrading plans and strategies → only as good as data that is based on. Metros don't always include all relevant data in publicly accessible documentation; may appear to have gone backwards if data from previous years is omitted
- Scorecard may suggest that if metro includes plan or strategy in documentation, implementation will automatically follow
- Officials not taking up opportunity to augment picture i.t.o. upgrading, lessons
- Assumption that CSOs would use tool in advocacy and engagements with specific cities but is not happening as expected

Activating external stakeholders to use and/or augment tool (and use P4I as broader platform for knowledge sharing and debate) requires capacity, which Isandla Institute doesn't have

Conclusion

- Notwithstanding limitations, tool is useful yardstick for gauging whether metros are prioritising incremental neighbourhood development for informal settlements as well as support for vital backyard housing sector
- Invitation to stakeholders to engage, use, contribute to deepen debate and improve practice; civic actors and communities can use tool to critically engage metros on commitments and performance

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