

United Nations World Habitat Day
1st October 2012
Msunduzi Housing Summit

Annex 4

Issues raised in Break Away Groups

Basic services (water, sanitation, roads)

- The 200m norm distance to water standpipes is too far for elderly people and young people
- Re-investigate basic services for informal settlements
- Roles and responsibilities in housing and basic services delivery
- Identification of municipality role players (CBOs queries)
- Revisit the label “informal settlements” – some have been in existence for 20 years. This raises the issue of service delivery. How is the municipality dealing with upgrades given the population explosion, the drift into town and the disjuncture between service delivery against this expansion.
- Funding – what is the figure that was allocated to Msunduzi?
- What is the allocation process?
- Lack of toilets leading to health hazards – criteria for VIP toilets
- Problem of moving sanitation issues from local to the district
- Roads maintenance poor
- Standpipes are leaking – even when reported, they are not fixed.
- Meter – receive statement owing R12 900 but there is no meter
- Maqongqo – houses were not built properly. Reconstruction – they demand R50 (municipal or iNkosi)?
- Sweetwaters Ward 2. Roads –gravel washed away by rain. No proper road maintenance in budget?
- Demolished house – built slab for a long time.
- What is the strategy for engaging public in service delivery prioritization? Suggest direct communication/evaluation monitoring on service delivery and interdepartmental networking
- What models or strategies are used to roll out housing and basic service delivery? In different Wards houses are being built but there is no sanitation, electricity or water. Are the projects properly planned, is there inter-departmental co-operation?
- Monitoring and evaluation strategies are key. Sometimes projects need to be started again. Is the project addressing the needs of the people and what is the municipality doing to monitor and evaluate to prevent failures.
- The public space needs to be de-politicised. It is difficult to distinguish between Ward Committees, public meetings, etc., so that CBOs can engage without fear of being labelled politically.

Housing

- Break-down in communication. The Ward Committee member in charge of housing is not prepared to speak to the community on the need for housing in the Ward. The Ward Councillor has very little support from the Ward Committee members.
- Who is responsible for the resources of current informal settlements and upcoming new housing in Ward 33?
- Vulindlela (VDA) – there is no communication between the Councillors and the community. We haven't been given a role to play and we ask the municipality to enable us to be part of this project.
- Vulindlela -- people are not aware of housing programmes. The people in need are not getting the houses, only the 'better' people get the houses.
- Ward 13 – the houses are in poor condition and leak when it rains.
- Sometimes people get paid only R100 per house as local labour.
- Copesville – some houses are well built, others have a problem
- The Councillor is not part of the project – there is no joining hands and working together.
- Need to convene workshops about how projects are facilitated.
- Too many informal settlements are un-numbered.
- Funding allocated to upgrade informal settlements – identify amount given to Msunduzi and what upgrades have been done
- No informal settlement housing list, no counting of houses (since 2008) in Ward 31.
- Land available for middle class (Ward 30). How can the municipality buy land for this.
- Lack of education and information on housing, lights, toilets leading to health hazards (Ward 31).
- Current maintenance of informal settlement (Waste collection and ablution facilities (Ward 33).
- In Vulindlela people are not taking ownership of the project.
- No issuing of title deeds for owners of low cost housing

Rectification work

- RDP housing – Poorly built and constant sewage spillage.
- Roofs not fully covered, walls crack and poor quality material being mixed too much
- Staff unreliable and steal material
- Sewage systems are not well located
- No title deeds
- Potholes and sewage
- Solution – the community should be hands on and reliable (reject poor quality material).
- The contractors must buy good quality material
- We need to monitor performance from the beginning

- Check how tenders are awarded so that people with experience are doing the work.
- Sometimes inspectors are not honest and are being bribed by the contractors.

“Other” issues

- Vulindlela Project – prioritization of the beneficiaries. It was agreed that the people with the most need would get houses first, but this was not implemented and those in less need received houses first.
- Land tenure and title deeds especially in rural areas.
- Allocation of house – even if you are given a number, houses are not being built. Someone discovered that their house was in a road reserve. Someone has been waiting since 2003.
- Rental stock - lack of maintenance and management.
- People owning more than 1 site for RDP housing development – causing sub-letting
- Turn around period for construction after sod turning too slow.
- Non-continuity of project after change of Ward Councillor
- Management of infrastructure, and the health and safety of community members
- Incomplete work that causes health hazards to community members
- No register of backlogs
- Size of land smaller than approved number of houses
- Lack of community participation in housing projects.
- Clarity of role of Councillors in rural housing projects.
- Lack of community participation on new projects (jobs, opportunity and business)
- Disability friendly homes are not being built and there is no room for manoeuvring wheelchairs
- Irregular meter reading for water and lights which results in high payment as municipality makes estimates.
- Illegal connections/distribution and selling of electricity.
- Informal construction of dwelling on flood plains. Danger zone/flood!
- Land grabbing and invasion which impacts negatively on housing development.
- Lack of participation from officials.
- Not qualifying for a house due to household income.
- Public participation is a problem when the contractor comes in with the officials at the beginning of a project. It is necessary to communicate with Ward Committees and Councillors so that expectations are established and the community can monitor progress of projects.