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2002 - 2022

YEARS

OF CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2022 - 2023





South African Cities Network

Quarter Three Newsletter | 2022 - 2023





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EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear Stakeholder,

Welcome to our quarterly online newsletter, where we bring you the latest updates and insights on everything happening in our world. As always, we're thrilled to have you join us for another edition, and we hope you find our content informative and engaging.

In this edition, we bring you updates on our latest advocacy and policy paper on the local government fiscal framework. On the events front, we hosted a water resilience learning event in partnership with SALGA and GIZ's Natural Resources Stewardship Programme. We also convened a two-day GBV learning event with the City of New York's ENDGBV office. The successful hosting of these events highlights the importance of collaboration and partnerships in re-imagining our urban world.

For a while now, we have been working on developing our Capability Development Problem-Led Approach project aimed at developing a municipal capability to address complex problems. We are delighted to secure the participation of colleagues from the City of Johannesburg in getting the project off the ground.

In conclusion, our team is committed to bringing you the best possible reading experience, and we're always looking for ways to improve. With that in mind, we encourage you to reach out and let us know what you think. Your feedback is invaluable to us, and we're excited to hear what you say. Thanks again for joining us, and we hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter!

Best Wishes,

Sithole Mbanga, SACN CEO

We hope you will enjoy this latest edition of our quarterly online stakeholder newsletter. Thank you for being our loyal reader.

INCLUSIVE CITIES

ENDGBV and SACN USRG Workshop

In its 2023 programme of work, Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG) identified Gender Mainstreaming and GBV Prevention as one of four key focus areas. In seeking partnerships to take forward this work, the USRG secured a grant through the US diplomatic mission in South Africa as well as support to identify and establish partnerships with like-minded actors in the US. Thus began a growing partnership and collaboration for learning and exchange with the City of New York's ENDGBV Office. With the continued technical support of the GIZ Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme, on 14 and 15 March, the first in a series of workshops to build capacity and peer-to-peer learning between city practitioners in New York and SACN participating cities were held.

The workshops opened the space for exchange on approaches to GBV prevention. Of great insight for SA cities about institutionalization and embedding, was that the ENDGBV office sits within the Mayor's office, with several executive orders guaranteeing continuity in the anti-GBV agenda regardless of changes in political leadership. The ENDGBV office drives a range of social and educational interventions, engaging citizens of all ages and cultural backgrounds; with special

programmes targeted at both victims and perpetrators of GBV. Central to the ENDGBV office's model is the understanding that histories of racism (white supremacy), patriarchy and oppression are the main root cause of all forms of violence. This informs the office's approach, which also tries to address the unconscious bias of practitioners such as law enforcement and which can be intrinsic in how data is collected and understood.

South African cities had the opportunity to share some of the policies and programmes in place, such as the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide, the Thuthuzela Care Centres



Photo: Urban Safety Group Members

and Rapid Response Teams. Cities learned how these interventions can be enhanced and more deeply embedded for sustainability. With expert facilitative support from Tanya Jacobs (PhD), the workshops also included deep-dive into key principles like shifting from the gender-blindness of systems, processes and policy-making to Gender Transformative approaches that recognize:

- » How socialization shows up in the work we do (planners shifting from the expert position to being active listeners and facilitators of important dialogue);
- » Intersecting oppressions that manifest a range of acts of violence affecting the vulnerable and marginalized;
- » The need to foster new norms that address underlying causes, policies and structures perpetuating marginalization and;
- » We must engage planners to think actively about the softer issues as they implement the hardware like roads, bridges, physical space and transport.

The Workshops were also graced by the US Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Cultural Affairs, Ms Lee Satterfield, on her visit to South Africa. In her input, she appreciated the learning exchange as a contribution to strengthening cooperation between the USA and South Africa on important issues.



[Left to right] Manager: Stakeholder Relations at SACN, Pholisa Maqgibelo, United States Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs Lee Satterfield, Executive Manager: Programmes at SACN, Nosipho Hlatshwayo, Inclusive-Cities Programme Manager at SACN Nicolette Pingo and Senior Researcher at SACN, Siphелеle Ngobese.

PRODUCTIVE CITIES

This productive cities' edition makes consideration of various milestones and developments in the socio-economic landscape within which South African cities operate. The impact of these turning points on urban economies is hereby noted. Chief amongst these was the State of the Nation's Address (SONA) which was delivered in February under uncertain conditions. The address focused on issues affecting ordinary people the most, including but not limited to power cuts and related effects on businesses, threats to livelihoods due to rising costs of living, and social protection, for which there are no easy solutions. In response, the address to the nation has outlined a set of actions to end load shedding, restore the economy, improve service delivery and rebuild our public institutions.

In its update on economic growth, Statistics South Africa reported that South Africa had 7,8 million persons who were without work, looking for work and available to work in the fourth quarter of 2022. Amongst this total, 6,1 million were in long-term unemployment and 1,7 million in short-term unemployment. While many factors are at play, this issue notes structural problems in the labour market due to a mismatch between supply and demand for labour, i.e. jobs may be available in the labour market but the skills the unemployed possess are not what is demanded by employers (Stats SA, 2022).

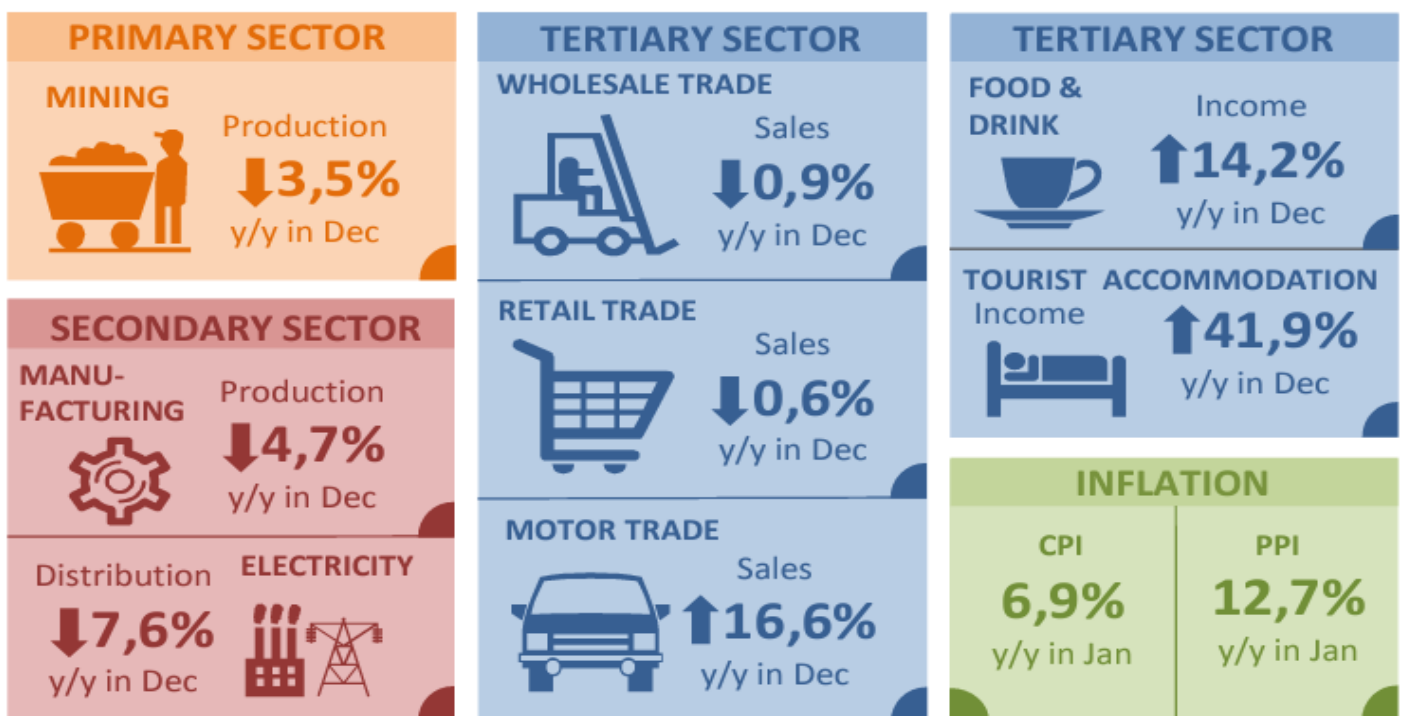


Figure 1: A snapshot of Economic Indicators for February 2023. Credit: StatsSA

Disparities are herein further noted in terms of sex and education level amongst the unemployed.

Amid these developments, the SACN's Productive Cities Programme has placed a firm focus on Job Creation and Skills Development, with the objective to understand local labour markets and increase the participation of vulnerable groups in the economy, especially youth and persons with disabilities. It should be emphasised that jobs increasingly need the labour force to be equipped with digital tools so they can remain relevant and competitive in the labour market. Therefore, investing in skills and resources to support the future of work remains the sure way for cities' future competitiveness.

As centres of economic growth and home to the majority of unemployed South Africans, cities are therefore urged to identify their roles in line with their mandates and commitments made by national government in the quest to grow the economy and jobs. It is hoped that through providing training and skills development in such programmes as the EPWP, implementing partners will work towards ensuring participants transition from public (employment) programmes with usable skills for future employment. Options are however not exhaustive, and cities should explore ways to provide more livelihood opportunities by leveraging Public Employment Programmes and other government initiatives.



SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT CITIES

World Water Day 2023

Accelerating Change to Solve the Water and Sanitation Crisis.

This year's World Water Day (22 March 2023) is about Accelerating Change to Solve the Water and Sanitation Crisis. There is a crisis because the progress being made towards the promise that everyone would have access to safely managed water and sanitation by 2030 is alarmingly off-track. Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, and in particular, Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation the delivery of these services remains unequal, unreliable, and unsafe for a large portion of the world's population (Pugel et al, 2021).



According to the United Nations SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation, nearly 900 million people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water, and over two billion - nearly a third of the world's population - lack safe sanitation (United Nations, 2018).

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

| A GLOBAL REPORT CARD |

WATER

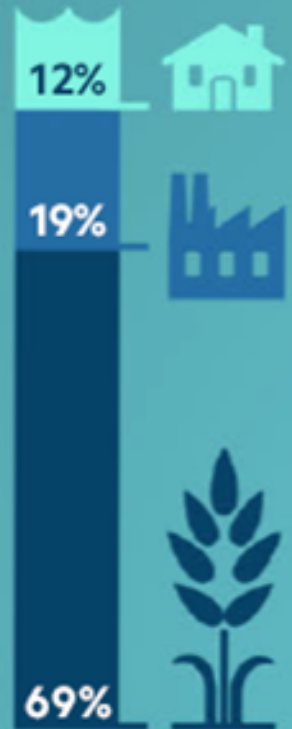
About 844 MILLION people lack basic water services, while 2.1 BILLION people lack clean, safe water available on their living premises.



About 159 MILLION people around the world collect their drinking water directly from surface water sources such as RIVERS, DAMS, or LAKES.



AGRICULTURE accounts for about 69 PERCENT of all freshwater use around the world. The INDUSTRY employs about 30 percent of the global workforce, and more than 60 percent of the workforce in sub-Saharan Africa. Other industries account for almost 19 PERCENT of freshwater use, while HOUSEHOLD use accounts for 12 PERCENT of the global total.



Demand for water for industrial use in EUROPE has decreased in recent years; remained at steady but high levels in NORTH AMERICA; and increased throughout AFRICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA AND OCEANIA, AND SOUTH AMERICA.

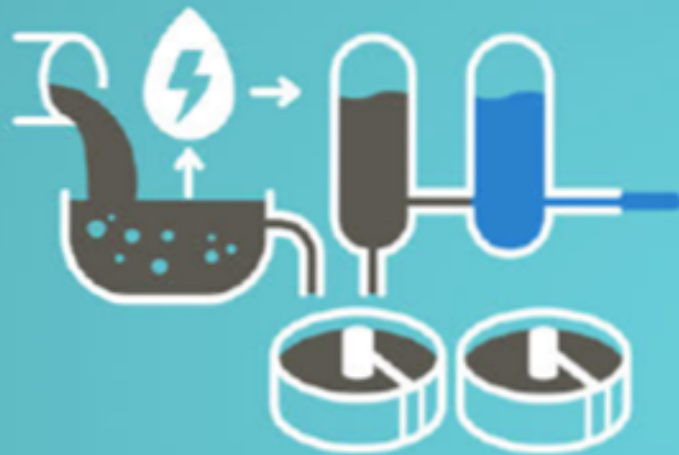
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The United Nations (UN) considers access to clean water and sanitation an essential human right. However, over two billion people around the world face obstacles in enjoying this right. The statistics shown here are taken from the UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation.

SANITATION AND HYGIENE

In 2015, about **2.3 BILLION** people lacked basic sanitation services, while **4.5 BILLION** lacked a managed sanitation service involving safe treatment or disposal of sewage.

Nearly **900 MILLION** still practiced open defecation.



The UN estimates that the amount of energy contained within wastewater in the form of biofuel is about 5 to 10 times greater than the energy required to treat the wastewater, which provides incentive to invest in innovative wastewater treatment.

In the world's least developed countries, only about **27 PERCENT** of the population has access to soap and water for hand washing on premises.



According to the UN, every **\$1 US** invested in **WASH** (**W**ater, **S**anitation, and **H**ygiene) yields **\$5 US** in social and economic benefits.





Photo credit : Daily Maverick

With a population of 1.4 billion people as of 2021, African countries are equally struggling, with 418 million people still lacking a basic level of drinking water service, 779 million lacking basic sanitation and 839 million still lacking basic hygiene services (United Nations, 2019). This lack of access to these essential services is a significant barrier to development on the African continent, as water, sanitation and hygiene underpin human health, economic development, ecosystem sustenance, peace and resilience.

In the world's most rapidly urbanising region, Sub-Saharan African cities are set to be home to an additional 950 million people by 2050 which is going to lead to significant increases in the demand for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services (OECD/SWAC, 2020).



Much of this growth and urban transition offer great opportunities but they also increase the strain on already insufficient infrastructure and bring new governance challenges to the fore (Gunalp et al., 2017). At the same time, climate change has made water sources increasingly scarce and unreliable, compounding the challenges.

Given the scale of the crisis, it is clear that achieving the SDG targets on water, sanitation, and hygiene in Africa is still a tall order and will require a dramatic rethink of actions aimed at accelerating the current rates of progress. This rethink and acceleration mean that different approaches are required at a scale and pace never seen or done before.

It is within this context, that collaborative approaches are seen as a promising way to strengthen WASH service delivery systems when challenges exceed the mandates and capabilities of any single country, city, entity, or organisation (Pugel et al, 2021).

“

Collaborative approaches are seen as a promising way to strengthen WASH service delivery systems when challenges exceed the mandates and capabilities of any single country, city, entity, or organisation...



Photo credit: [Brookings Institute](#)

Advocating for Accelerated Change and Collaborative Approaches



The UN Water Conference held from 22-24 March 2023 is considered a seminal conference and a pivotal turning point opportunity aimed at putting the global water agenda at the forefront of the Sustainable Development Agenda. The last conference that focused on freshwater was held almost 50 years ago (in 1977) and the importance of this 2023 conference cannot be over-emphasised as many of the global water challenges put forward in 1977 remain unresolved and progress alarmingly slow (SIWI, 2023). The call to action this year is on Accelerating Change to solve the water and sanitation crisis and impresses upon everyone to do their part in increasing the pace and scale of this change.

The emergence of collaborative approaches globally is seen as part of a broader movement to accelerate change and strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene systems (Pugel et al, 2021). This “systems strengthening” seeks to “understand, engage with, and positively influence the multiplicity of actors and the interrelated factors that enable service delivery” (ibid). Such collaborative approaches move beyond the colloquial meaning of “collaboration” and are rather translated into development programmes that bring local-level stakeholders together to address shared and complex problems through joint action and mutual responsibility.

The Water Resilient Cities Reference Group is one such collaborative platform that has translated joint action towards a programme. Since 2018, the South African Cities Network (SACN) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), together with their partners, the GIZ’s Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS) and the USAID’s Water Sanitation and Hygiene Finance Program (WASH-FIN), have been convening the Water Resilient Cities series of learning events with the support of varying partners over the years, amongst them the World Bank 2030 Water Resources Group, C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF), Water Research Commission (WRC) and most recently the World Resources Institute (WRI). The learning events have become catalysts for:

- » engagement and effective platforms for peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange;
- » solution-seeking conversations;
- » capacity building amongst participating cities; and
- » innovative responses to water security and resilience challenges.

Each knowledge exchange event is guided by participant feedback (from city managers and practitioners, water specialists in the public and private sectors, civil society organisations and regional and international experts) on topics that require further discussion, exploration and collaboration. On 30 March 2023, the partners convened the 6th instalment of the Water Resilient Cities series of learning events which was held against the backdrop of World Water Day 2023 and the UN Water Conference along the same theme of Accelerating Change. The event brought together a diverse set of urban actors and innovators who are heeding the call for accelerated action and change in the WASH sector.

At the learning and knowledge exchange event, collaborators and participants:

- » Shared their experiences in charting pathways for collaboratively strengthening water and sanitation service delivery;
- » Highlighted alternative and innovative technologies that are being adopted across the Southern and Eastern African region for WASH service delivery;
- » Discussed approaches that some African cities are adopting to ensure local-level collaborative partnerships for accelerated delivery; and
- » Shared lessons for improved and accelerated access to water and sanitation services in various African cities.

At the conclusion of the event, participants and speakers were able to positively link SDG 6 with most of the activities they are undertaking and were spurred on to continue working collaboratively, recognising that multiple and diverse entities make a stronger combined whole; that contextual flexibility is important; as is the involvement and uptake by relevant government and city entities, to accelerate progress and change.



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE

WELL GOVERNED CITIES

South Africa has a devolved system of co-equal spheres of government. Power and revenue-raising capacity exists in the local sphere and is informed by the local government fiscal framework. In recent years the strains in the model have become apparent as municipal financial performance has suffered and the provision of basic service delivery, one of the primary roles of local government, has come under the

spotlight. There have been calls from various quarters for a re-examination of the components and also the entire local government fiscal framework itself. The purpose of the advocacy and policy paper is to contribute to this discussion, on the premise that some key assumptions underlying the fiscal framework need to be interrogated to explain the state of municipal financial performance and hence basic service delivery.

The genesis of the Capability Development Problem Led Approach (CDPL) comes from SACN's 2016-2021 strategic review which identified the lack of capability of the local state as a focus area for the well-governed cities programme. A coach who developed the approach with Matt Andrews for the Building State Capability Programme at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government has been identified to conduct and facilitate the pilot programme in the City of Joburg.

During January we received confirmation that the City of Joburg Region E would have a team participating in the pilot, and this was followed by confirmation in February that Region F would also nominate a team. In February the PDIA approach was presented to the City's Group Strategy, Policy Coordination and Relations Department (GSPCR) in the hope that we will have a third team from the city join the pilot. This range of departments will certainly provide an interesting range of problems to examine from the strategic to the operational level.

The SACN CDPL executive leadership programme will focus on the iterative disassembling of urban problems to develop unique solutions and strengthen the capability of city departments in the process.

This quarter's work in the Well Governed Cities Programme has focused on three main areas: an advocacy and policy paper on the local government fiscal framework; securing the participation of teams from the City of Johannesburg to participate in the Capability Development Problem-Led Approach (CDPL) and working collaboratively with the Sustainable and Resilient Cities Programme on managing a research paper on the Just Urban Transition.

In 2020, the President of South Africa established the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) which is a multi-stakeholder body that advises on the country's climate change response and pathways to a low-carbon climate-resilient economy and society. One of the first tasks of the PCC was to develop a framework for a just transition. The Just Transition Framework was adopted by the PCC in May 2022. It presents an opportunity to start dealing with practical issues relating to jobs, local economies, skills, social support, and governance.

Recognising that a just urban transition is not an outcome, but a process inspired by a vision of a sustainable city, governance has been highlighted as one of the critical ingredients required for its success. At its core, the just urban transition requires that no one is left behind. The governance for the just urban transition paper will explore the institutional and governance shifts required for a just urban transition in South Africa's metropolitan areas.



TEAM NEWS AND EVENTS

Urban Resilience Strategies Workshop



Urban Resilience in South African Cities



On the 28th of February 2023, The Productive Cities Programme at SACN hosted The Urban Resilience Strategy Workshop, following the release of the Urban Resilience in South Africa report.

The workshop's conversation focused on moving from strategy to action through hearing, sharing, and learning. Our speakers included, Mr David Sullivan from the City of Cape Town, Ms Joanne Douwes from eThekweni Municipality, Ms Kate Joseph from the City of Johannesburg, Mr Is'aaq Akoon from the City of Ekurhuleni, as well as our Sustainable & Resilient Cities Programme Manager, Ms Liteboho Makhele.

URBAN RESILIENCE STRATEGIES WORKSHOP

28 FEBRUARY 2023



"A conversation focused on moving from strategy to action through hearing, sharing, and learning."



SPEAKERS:



Mr. Daniel Sullivan

Incoming Director:
Resilience,
City of Cape Town.



Ms. Jo Douwes

Manager:
Sustainable & Resilient City
Initiatives Unit,
eThekweni Municipality.



Ms. Kate Joseph

Deputy Director:
Strategy & Research,
City of Johannesburg.



Mr. Is'haaq Akoon

Senior Manager:
Climate Change,
City of Ekurhuleni.



Ms. Liteboho Makhele

Programme Manager:
Sustainable & Resilient Cities,
South African Cities Network.

Water Resilient Cities Learning Event 6

On 30 March 2023, the South African Cities Network (SACN), South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in partnership with the GIZ Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) hosted the sixth Water Resilient Cities Learning event under the theme “Accelerating Change to solve the Water and Sanitation Crisis in African Cities”. A keynote address was delivered by, the Commissioner representing Local Government: Presidential Climate Commission; Chairperson: SALGA National Working Group and Deputy Chairperson of the SALGA Environmental Management & Climate Resilience Working Group, Cllr. Kenalameng Phukuntsi. We also had various speakers from South Africa, Kenya, and Zambia, sharing experiences and lessons about water and sanitation.

To find out more about the previous Water Resilient Cities Learning Events, download the Compendium here

WATER RESILIENT CITIES
LEARNING EVENT

30 MARCH 2023
10:00AM - 12:30PM SAST

Accelerating Change to solve the Water and Sanitation Crisis

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD

Mayor Kenalameng Phukuntsi, Dhesigen Naidoo, Peter Varndell, Evans Otibine, Lutske Newton, Tarryn Johnston, Kachikoti Banda, Jay Bhagwan

Brought you by: South African Cities Network, SALGA (South African Local Government Association) Inspiring service delivery

In Partnership with: NatuReS (Natural Resources Stewardship Programme) Joint solutions for resilient economic growth, German Cooperation, GIZ, World Resources Institute

Upcoming Events

Coming up in the next quarter will be the two ENDGBV – USRG workshops to be held virtually and will take place during the months of April and May 2023, we are working on bringing a SACN Dialogue series, as well as our very own podcast series, more information will be released soon.



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