JULY 2020

IUDF NEWSLETTER

The latest on urban issues in the country

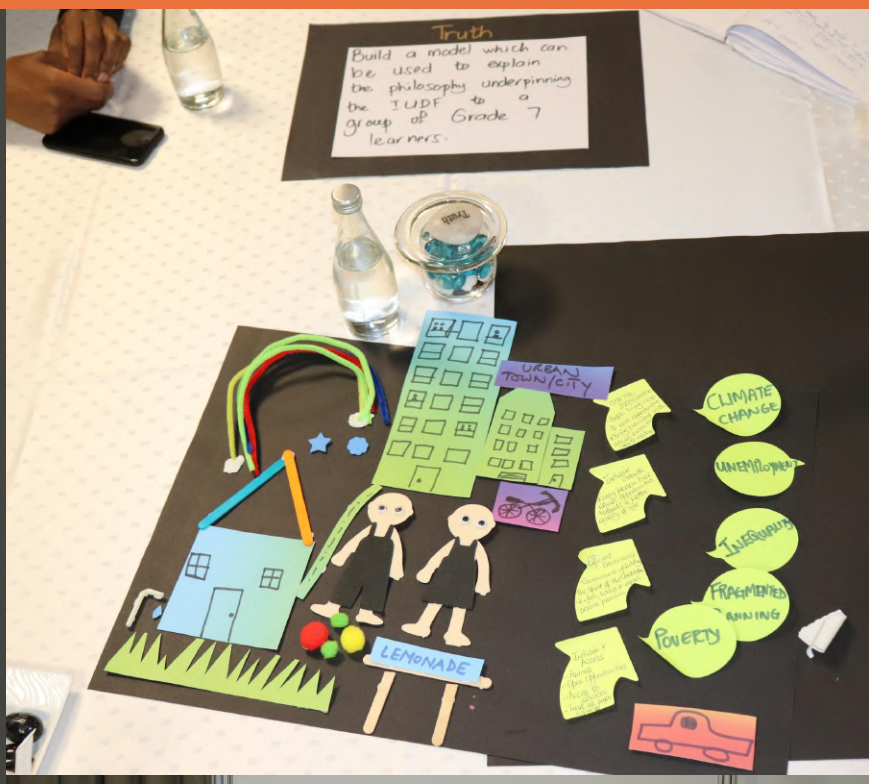
In This Issue

Urbanisation + COVID-19

Integrated Urban Development Grant Reprioritisation

Exclusive interview with SA's Young Planners Essay Competition winner

ICM Learning Network- A Living Lab for urban development



Chief Directors' Note

Dear Stakeholder,

We are thrilled to be presenting this newsletter to you, even though it comes out at a time where we are facing unprecedented challenges of the outbreak of the novel Corona Virus pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare our fault lines in our urban spaces. The COVID-19 pandemic has also, not only challenged how we live, socialize and work, it has also revealed the need to fast track our effort to spatially transform and develop resilient cities and towns that can stand any disaster.

One of the great lessons that are emerging during this pandemic is that, we have demonstrated our ability to be agile, delivering services fast and in a collaborative manner. As part of the new normal brought about by COVID-19, municipalities have had to be creative on how they operate for instance, finding innovative ways to conduct public participation to finalize their IDP processes, hold virtual council meetings and reprioritize budgets/grants in their efforts to curb the spread of the virus.

This newsletter will profile intermediate city municipalities that are participating in the implementation of the Integrated Urban Development Grant (IUDG) and how they have reprioritized a portion of their IUDG allocation to support COVID-19 efforts.

This edition also highlights some of the work we have been doing in Intermediate City Municipalities (ICMs). The Intermediate City Municipal Support Programme is an integral part of the implementation of the IUDF. The Programme offers capacity support, policy/regulatory support and fiscal support to intermediate cities. The Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG) in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) established a learning network as a living lab where ICMs can exchange knowledge and share their experiences in implementing our national urban policy. This Learning Network is creating Urban Champions in our intermediate cities who are driving the urban agenda innovatively and in partnership with their local constituencies.

In this issue we highlight the lessons and the work the network is doing. Under our special feature we profile South African Cities Networks' Young Urban Planners Competition winners as tribute to Youth Month which we celebrated last month as a country.

We conclude by outlining what future plans on the implementation of the IUDF particularly as we find ourselves in the process of working on a revised implementation plan. The timing for this process could not be more ideal, given the recent introduction and roll out of the District Development Model (DDM) and lessons that can be harvested from the current COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that these two developments will propel our IUDF implementation agenda to greater and more impactful heights, where our communities, especially women, youth and children living in poor communities will feel this impact where they live.

This is a time where all of society need to play their part in working towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11: "Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. As declared by the United Nations at the World Urban Forum that to achieve this goal by 2030, we need to make this next decade a decade of action, and that's what we are working towards. We hope you will enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

We welcome comments and suggestions on what you would like us to feature in our future editions. A time for coherent, collaborative implementation is now more important than ever as we can advance our country's urban agenda!

Best regards,
Josiah Lodi
Chief Director: Urban Development Planning

WELCOME
DG AVRIL WILLIAMSON

It is with great pleasure to introduce the newly appointed Director General in the Department of Cooperative Governance to our IUDF family and stakeholders.

Ms Williamson brings with her a wealth of experience from diverse industries including Manufacturing, ICT, Telecommunications, Public and Higher Education Sectors, where she held Senior and Executive Director roles in large corporates such as Daimler Chrysler, SARS, BMW South Africa, Vodacom, DHA and SRSA. These environments are highly demanding and complex. DG Williamson has a passion for people with interests in leadership, strategy, employee engagement, talent management and development, change management and transformation. We look forward to support her efforts to transform the Department and its programmes.

Ms Williamson has received several accolades, with the most recent one award to SRSA from the South African Board of People Practice, for the best overall award within the Private Sector for the period 2018.

She joins the Department at a time when we are in the process of drafting a new implementation plan for the IUDF for the current five year political term and navigating the uncharted waters of the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe her leadership and guidance will be valuable to the Department and public sector as a whole.

Municipalities' response to COVID19

Our country recorded its first case of COVID-19 on the 5thof March 2020 and the number has since increased to 445 433 positive cases. This means our country has to put in place certain measures to try and curb the spread of the virus. These measures have resulted in a change in how we do business. Municipalities have had to implement regulations set by government while ensuring that they continue to provide services to citizens. The COVID-19 pandemic required led us try and navigate a tricky trajectory of balancing saving lives and saving local economies that are key to keep people employed. Give the actual figure as at the time of the publication of the newsletter. We have this information.

Late in April, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a R500-billion COVID-19 Relief Fund with R20-billion directly allocated to municipalities to help contain the spread of the virus. Municipalities headed the call by the President to ensure that citizens are looked after and service delivery continues even under lockdown restrictions. The support and relief packages were localised because each municipality is impacted differently by the virus.

Most municipalities have a socio-economic response plan to address some of the major challenges and ensure resolute governance that puts citizens at the centre while navigating the uncharted waters of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to estimates from an economic impact model done by economists in the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Drakenstein's tourism sector lost approximately R65 million in income and 700 jobs after two months of the lockdown. Closure of provincial, continental and international borders and all the ports affected wine and fruit exports, amongst others. Some future export orders had to be cancelled due to the uncertainty around the duration of the pandemic and the lockdown restrictions. Businesses who import parts, especially the automotive sector and machinery parts were also affected by the lockdown regulations.

The Drakenstein economy is estimated to have lost over R800 million in income and 2 200 jobs after 2 months of lockdown, according to estimates from the Western Cape Department of Economic Development's impact model. Manufacturing, retail, trade and transport account for over 50% of the loss in income after 2 months of lockdown while tourism, construction and the informal sector account for over 80% of the job losses during the same period. Loss of income in the private sector and households have also negatively affected the municipality's revenue and this will continue over the next few months.

Many cities have seen a decline in revenue collection, for example Ray Nkonyeni saw a significant drop in income of about 65% in April which is gradually improving as regulations are being eased. The municipality had to put on hold a total of 27 projects that were under construction were due to lockdown regulations. Out of the 27, 21 projects have since resumed construction after the level 4 and level 3 easing of the restrictions. Six projects especially building projects have not yet returned to site because building projects were allowed back to site on 1stJune 2020.

National Treasury through the MFMA Circular No 99 cautioned municipalities on how they respond to the pressure put on them to grant relief to consumers, such as rates holidays or rebates.

NT further provided recommendations, which the municipality needs to consider in this regard as follows:

i) Where municipalities consider initiatives to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and economic households such as rebates, payment holidays, relaxation of credit control measures municipalities:

· Must ensure that their liquidity and overall financial sustainability is not compromised.

· In granting rebates to their consumers, should consider all the relevant legislation, regulations such as Municipal Property Rates Act, MFMA dealing with revenue management within the disaster management principles.

· Must ensure that the relaxation of levying interest for overdue payments for municipal services should be in line with Council policies, bylaws and other applicable bylaws.

INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT GRANT (IUDG)

The Integrated Urban Development Grant (IUDG) was introduced in the 2019/20 Division of Revenue Act as a consolidated grant for Intermediate City Municipalities.The introduction of this grant was in support of the Integrated Urban Development Framework; an element of a support programme for Intermediate City Municipalities; and is guided by the recommendations of the Review of Local Government Infrastructure Grants undertaken in 2013.

A Review of Local Government Infrastructure Grants was initiated in October 2013, led by National Treasury together with the Department of Cooperative Governance, the Financial and Fiscal Commission, the South African Local Government Association, and the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation. The review envisioned a grant system that included:

- Greater differentiation in the type of grants going to different municipalities
- A move from focussing on rolling out new infrastructure to increased focus on the management and renewal of existing infrastructure
- Ensuring greater value for money for the funds spent; and
- Ensuring greater coherence in the management of the grant system.

The Integrated Urban Development Framework is consistent with and reinforces the findings of the Review of Local Government Infrastructure Grants. The design of the IUDG has responded to both.This local government infrastructure grant has a core role in delivering on Levers 4 and 2 of the Integrated Urban Development Framework, which relate to 'integrated urban infrastructure' and 'integrated transport and mobility' respectively. In addition, Lever 9, 'sustainable finances', speaks explicitly of incentivising infrastructure provision that is more integrated through an improved conditional grant framework.

The IUDG is a schedule 5(B) grant in terms of the Division of Revenue Act (DoRA), overseen by the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA). The grant exists to provide specific capital finance for eradicating basic municipal infrastructure backlogs for poor households, microenterprises and social institutions servicing poor communities. The desired outcome is improved access to basic services infrastructure for poor communities.

Principles underlying the grant.

Principles underlying the grant design are:

a) Municipalities must take the lead in dealing with the urban challenge

b) Municipal differences must continue to be acknowledged

c) Infrastructure investment must be made with due consideration to spatial form

d) Municipalities must invest to unlock growth

e) Municipalities must be held accountable for outcomes

f) The assets financed through a grant must be well managed

Currently there are 7 municipalities that are recipients of the IUDG:

-City of uMhlathuze
-Drakenstein
-Mogale City
-Polokwane
-Ray Nkonyeni
-Sol PlaatjeStellenbosch
-Stellenbosch

IUDG REPRIORITIZATION FOR COVID-19

Total Allocation R856, 295 000.00
Total Allocation for COVID19 R189, 671,492.00

22%of the IUDG has been reprioritized for COVID-19

CITY OF uMHLATHUZE
VISION INTO ACTION

R139, 388 000.00

COVID-19 ALLOCATION
R 35,000, 000.00

DRAKENSTEIN
MUNISIPALITEIT • MUNICIPALITY • UMASIPALA
Paarl | Wellington | Gouda | Saron | Simondium

R49, 050 000.00

COVID-19 ALLOCATION
R9,731, 444.00

Mogale City
Local Municipality

R120, 599,000.00

COVID-19 ALLOCATION
R33, 270, 000.00

CITY OF Polokwane
NATURALLY PROGRESSIVE

R378, 290,000.00

COVID-19 ALLOCATION
R77, 400, 000.00

RAY NKONYENI
MUNICIPALITY

The Game changer of South Coast development

R70, 795,000.00

COVID-19 ALLOCATION
R15, 200, 000.00

SOL PLAATJE MUNICIPALITY
We Serve

R51, 287 000.00

COVID-19 ALLOCATION
R12, 235, 196.00

STELLENBOSCH
STELLENBOSCH • PNIEL • FRANSCHHOEK
MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA • MUNICIPALITY

R46, 886 000,00

COVID-19 ALLOCATION
R 6, 834, 853.00

Focus areas of the reprioritisation

- Water and sanitation projects and services to communities
- Disinfection of Municipal facilities and public space
- Provision of PPE
- Construction of rural emergency water supply Infrastructure
- Waste Management Services
- Building of cemetery
- Repairs to municpal owned facilities identified as quarantine sites.

Re-drilling of collapsed boreholes in Hwibi Village

Images of projects which are funded by the IUDG in support of COVID-19 Interventions. (Supplied by Polokwane Municipality)

Replacement of broken Lister Engines at Ga-Piet Village

Replacement of broken Lister Engines at Semenya Village

Construction of Polokwane Workshop Drawoff Point

Construction of a Borehole Pu,phouse at Madigorong Village

Replacement of broken motor and pump at Makgodu Village

Construction of Sand River Nortn Drawoff Point

Four warer tanker draw-off points were constructed at Polokwane workshop, Dalmada WTW, Mankweng Stores and Sand River North Pumpstation.

Construction of Dalmada Purification Drawoff Point

Did you know

Cities are 'hubs' for skills, knowledge, innovation, businesses, and jobs. Between 2014 and 2016, 300 large cities – containing only 22% of world population – drove 67% of world GDP growth.

-In 1800, only 2% of the world's population was urbanized.

-Almost 180,000 people are added to the urban population each day.

-It is estimated that there are almost a billion poor people in the world, of this over 750 million live in urban areas without adequate shelter and basic services.

- Cities may be home to growing numbers of people, but cover less than 1 percent of the world's surface

- The world's most creative city is Al-Ahsa in Saudi Arabia, according to UNESCO's Creative Cities' Network

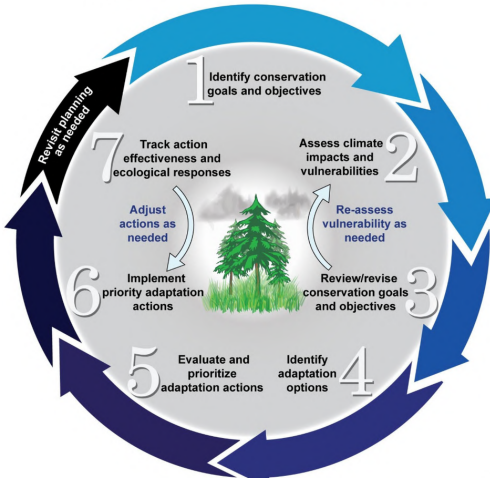
Source: https://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/integration/pdf/fact_sheet.pdft

Do your part to save the planet!

Climate change will have impacts on many sectors:

- **Temperature and precipitation** variability will impact agriculture and subsequently food security and livelihoods, will increase the extent and severity of vector borne diseases as incidence of floods and water logging increase,
- **Flooding** will cause loss and damage to infrastructure and property in affected areas
- **Sea level** rise will cause damage to coastal ecosystems, increase damages from storm surges and will make coastal freshwater aquifers saline.
- Climate induced disasters will have serious economic and social consequences like loss to property, infrastructure, health, forced migration to name a few.

Adaptation Planning and Implementation Framework



Sourced: nca2014.globalchange.gov

SA-EU CAC YOUTH DIALOGUES

The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC), SA-EU Strategic Partnership - The Dialogue Facility and the Sibikwa Arts Centre, presented the 3rd instalment of the international policy dialogue on community-based arts centres, from 2-6 March 2020, in partnership the Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs (COGTA), South African Local Government Association (SALGA), and Embassies of Ireland, Flanders and France.

Delegates in group discussion at K-CAP:

Building from Dialogues held in 2017 and 2018, the 2020 Dialogue title 'Shukuma Mzansi' focused on 'Implementing the National CAC Policy in Municipalities' and was designed to:

- promote dialogue and knowledge exchange across borders, through presentations by SA and EU experts on rural, urban, sustainable and creative development policies and strategies
- connect and mobilise stakeholders for multi-dimensional engagement with policy development and implementation
-contribute to an improved framework for cooperation and a strong network of community arts centres and local municipalities.

Held in Nelson Mandela Bay and eThekwini, 173 Government officials and Community Art representatives, from South Africa, Ireland, France and Belgium, attended the Dialogue. The inclusion of youth and women as presenters, delegates, performers, and administrative and technical support, was imperative, for building capacity in, and development of, the sector, and sustainable local communities.

The Dialogue, exploring the challenges and innovations of the community arts sector, and key national policies including the White Paper on Arts, Culture and Heritage, DSAC's Policy Document for the Development of Local Arts and Culture Centres and Programmes, SALGA's Culture 21 approach,

COGTA's Back to Basics initiative and Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF), and Integrated Development Plans (IDP), amongst others, highlighted the need for:

- active partnerships, networks and relationships
- capacity building and training for CACs as an ongoing process
- integrating arts and culture in broader government policy
- diversifying funding and making resources and incentives available to CACs
-continued education and forums for increased understanding between stakeholders and of policy processes and best practice.

CACs are significant to communities, youth and women, providing opportunities for development, participation in arts and culture, and empowering active citizenship. Under the ambit of the IUDF "all of society approach", a project is being developed between COGTA, Sibikwa, SACN and other government Departments, to incorporate CACs in policies, plans and current initiatives, such as the Back to Basics Programme, the IUDF policy lever 7, and the District Development Model, amongst others. We look forward to this and other partnerships and projects created for the collective transformation of our society.

SA-EU CAC YOUTH DIALOGUES

The Role of COGTA, B2B and the IUDF on CAC COGTA's recent participation at the SA-EU Community Arts Centres (CAC) Dialogue 2020: Shukuma Mzansi III was under the ambit of the IUDF which is to promote an "All of Society" approach to ensure continued partnering with CAC, youth through Sibikwa and SACN to implement Policy Lever 7 Empowered Active communities. The objective was to take the work done by the CAC to continue building and strengthening the voices of communities and encourage empowered active communities to be more involved and participate in the IUDF through the work of the CAC. It was also to find the way forward on how government Departments, including the Department of Cooperative Governance and other government departments, can incorporate the role of CAC into their policies, plans and programmes and find ways to coordinate and support the work of CAC through current initiatives.

Through Sibikwa and the National Department of Arts and Culture, the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG) proposed the following coordinating roles and road forward:

- Engagements with Academia (Youth/ Community Arts Awareness Programmes) and community arts centers.
- Dialogues with various Government Sectors including SALGA
- Introduce the conversation and work that has been commemorated by Sibikwa at the IUDF Platforms and Provincial Structures
- Create an enabling platform of role of Youth through the SACN.

Orla Scannell (Ireland) and Stefanie Chetty (COGTA) in conversation during a tea break

Registration Table at the Athenaeum, Nelson Mandela Bay

Young Urban Planner Competition Winners

By Tlholohelo Mokgere (South African Cities Network -SACN)

The South African Cities Network (SACN) recognises the IUDF's priorities to enhance participatory governance and to invest in the capabilities of urban role players through engagement and cocreation (COGTA, 2016). The SACN's Inclusion and Wellbeing Programme leads a youth workstream that aims to improve young people's understanding of local government processes and their role in them, and to help amplify youth voices in local urban discourses and decision-making. This work has tow components:

The Youth and Cities Project has been running since 2018 and is currently in its third phase. This phase leverages on the capacity built with youth participants in previous phases and years to engage with other young people in their communities. This work engages with 60 young people in Soweto, Katlehong, Daveyton, Jeppestown, Yeoville, Braamfontein and Orange Farm around how they experience the city, and what their role is or could be in shaping the city's future. This is facilitated through a participatory research methodology that includes interviews and artistic expressions such as visualisations and poetry.

The Young Planners and Designers Competition is held biennially and calls on young scholars and professionals to innovatively envision a future city. A total of 17 submissions were received across the various formats (essay, photo-essay, poster and virtual 3D model), with the majority of entrants either visualising their contributions through posters or sharing their insights through the discursive format. Entrants responded to the themes by highlighting a number of topical issues including youth unemployment, service delivery and the importance of integrated city planning.

The Competition Winners are: Zubeida Lowton (1stplace), Essay submission titled "The Urban Connectivity of Our Future Cities" Zubeida is a professional town planner completing the final year of her PhD candidacy at Glasgow University, United Kingdom (UK) Her competition submission is based on her PhD research around the socio-spatial transformation of post-apartheid cities, focusing on issues of safety and the lived experiences of people in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

"I chose urban connectivity as a starting point because you have the spatial and the social interacting. You are trying to create an environment where people from all backgrounds can mix and explore, not to still have the vision of what Johannesburg used to represent: a divided city."

When asked about actions that could be initiated within the next decade in order to implement her essay's recommendations and to meet SDG 11's key tenets, Zubeida posited that the starting point to connecting streets and reducing spatial fragmentation was investing in walkability and liveability. She argued that walking was quite common in South Africa, and that in fact people often walked long distances to public transport stops.

Tshepo Tsotetsi (2nd place), Poster submission titled "Making Planning More Developmental- Attacking the Bottlenecks" Tshepo is a recent Bachelor of Town and Regional Planning graduate from the University of Pretoria currently looking for employment, while also exploring opportunities to further his studies.His submission was inspired by his undergraduate studies and his Honours research on alternatives to existing informal settlement upgrading methods.

"When I saw this competition, I thought [sharing] my voice through this medium is a great opportunity to start getting involved in the planning fraternity. Hopefully I will get one [a job] by the end of the year or next year, but the current situation in the country says it won't be happening anytime soon."

When asked about his reference of planners as 'agents of change' in his submission and how the youth in particular could realise that role within the current institutional environment, Tshepo contended that the creativity of the youth is often stifled by conservative and archaic institutions and cultures, which have adverse effects on advancing social justice and the ability of the youth to contribute effectively. He suggested that a change in the organisational culture was necessary to encourage more youth participation.

> "Planners must see themselves as agents of change to make cities more equitable, bankable, sustainable, resilient, liveable and beautiful, global and productive"
>
> - Tshepo Tsotetsi

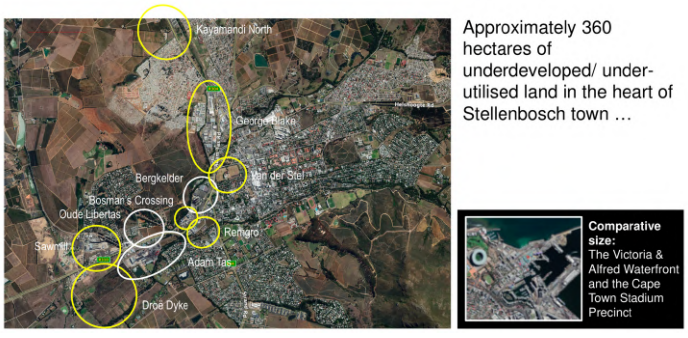
ICM LEARNING NETWORK – A LIVING LAB

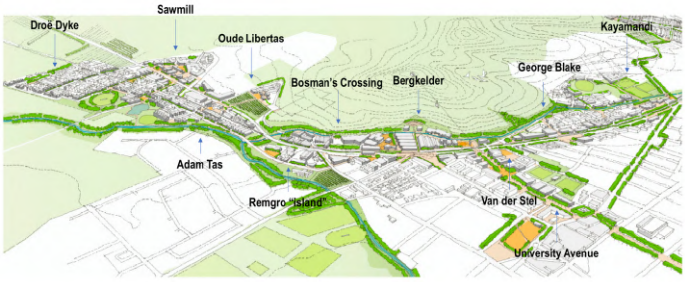
During the first phase of the implementation of the IUDF, South Africa introduced programmes that targeted Intermediate City Municipalities, due to the realization that urbanization does not only affect large metropolitan municipalities but it also affects what was then known as secondary cities, and in some instances, small towns as well. In fact, there is growing evidence that points to the fact that intermediate city municipalities find themselves confronted by high growth rate and inevitably, high urbanization rate and its subsequent challenges when not properly planned for. According to research done by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) **Intermediary cities are home to 20% of the world´s population and one third of the total urban population**. "Their crucial role in the achievement of an "inclusive, safe and resilient" urbanism, (Goal 11 of the SDGs), and in the development of more balanced and sustainable urban systems, means that intermediary cities need to become more prominent in the New Urban Agenda and its implementation"

Last year the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) established a peer-learning network between 6 intermediate city municipalities that are amongst the first few to implement and test certain aspects of our national urban policy. These are City of Mbombela, City of uMhlathuze, KwaDukuza LM, Polokwane LM, Stellenbosch Municipality and Steve Tshwete LM. Each city is represented by three officials, these include engineers, planners, PMU managers, LED executives as well as CFOs.

Since the establishment of the network, in September 2019, we've had 2 sessions, the first was in October 2019 hosted by Stellenbosch municipality. The municipality presented their IUDF project and took participants on a tour around the city to show and discuss their urban challenges and the plans they have in place to mitigate these challenges. A crucial component of the learning network is what we call 'The Living lab project" this is a project selected by the municipality to be used as case study in the network. The municipality will share how the particular project is addressing an urban challenge in their city, what are some of the difficulties in implementing the project as well as the overall outcome of the project. The project does not have to be completed within the duration of the network, however cities can use the network as a place to draw guidance in implementing the project.

One of the plans Stellenbosch is embarking on as part of their living lab project is called the "Adams Tas Corridor", a ground-breaking urban change project along a development corridor in Stellenbosch that looks to build a better urban society for all. It looks to develop this corridor as an 'urban laboratory' - a place for testing new ideas, tools and tactics across the broadest spectrum of social, economic, cultural and physical change and turning this learning into action. The project stretches along the R310 and R44 from the Cape Sawmills site in the southwest to Kayamandi and Cloetesville in the northeast, it is a transport-orientated, urban development corridor running alongside Stellenbosch's town centre.





The Stellenbosch meeting which was the first official learning network meeting was attending by Municipal Managers (MMs) and Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) of the participating cities who pledged their support to the networking, highlighting the value it will add in ensuring wholistic planning in municipalities. Mr Mxolisi Kunene CFO of uMhlathuze said *"CFOs are more than numbers, it is important to see your CFOs as partners in the planning process of the municipality to achieve sustainable results"*

> As Intemediary cities we are becoming incubators of growth. We are suppose to be pushing the economy forward"
>
> - Ms Geraldine Mettler
> Stellenbosch Municipality

In March 2020 KwaDukuza Municipality hosted the second learning network session. The theme for the session was climate change and urban renewal. The discussion focused on understanding the impact of climate change and the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures for local government in South Africa. KwaDukuza officials lead by Mr Manzini the Chief Operating Officer (COO) took the members of the network around the CBD to show case their project which is the regeneration of the CBD. The objective is to restore, renew and transform KwaDukuza CBD into an efficient, vibrant, functional, socio economic hub that is environmentally sustainable and leverage public and private sector investment

Even though we find ourselves in a pandemic that has brought about change in how we work and do business, the learning network has hopped on the virtual train to continue sharing knowledge and experiences particularly with how they are managing the pandemic from a local level. The network has become agile and introduced mini webinars to promote knowledge exchange. The network has since hosted two virtual sessions one was held on the 8thof May 2020 and the other on the 25thof June 2020. The virtual learning has allowed municipalities to share their COVID-19 response plans as well as economy recovery plans with each other taking forward the learning revolution.

Lets take it back to WUF10

In February, UN Habitat hosted the 10th session of the world urban forum in Abu Dhabi. The global conference brought together delegates from all across the world under the theme "Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation, focusing on harnessing culture and innovation as drivers of sustainable urban development"

South Africa participated at the WUF 10 with the South African delegation being led by Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Pamela Tshwete , the Department of Cooperative Governance was also among the delegates representing South Africa at the Forum. The 10ThSession of the World Urban Forum provided an opportunity to promote and gain knowledge on the key areas of sustainable human settlements, urban development and spatial integration, including the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the housing and urban development aspects of other global agendas. The session further provided a platform for key engagements on monitoring frameworks, funding instruments, planning and programme implementation approaches, informal settlements upgrading, and creating inclusive, safe and resilient spaces which is what our national urban policy- the IUDF advocates for.

The Department of Cooperative Governance in partnership with The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH hosted a side event on "Peer learning Networks as a mechanism for implementing the national urban policy".

The session echoed the voices of intermediate city municipalities in South Africa sharing their experiences in implementing the national urban policy as well partner organisations such as ICLEI. Participating members of the peer learning network expressed that being part of the network allows for creative ways of community engagement as well as create a conducive environment for partnerships and collegial support across municipal boundaries. Implementing a national urban policy forces line departments to work together leading to integration of urban development.

The national urban policy has cut-crossing thematic areas, one of them being urban resilience. The network through partnerships such as ICLEI have made it easy for municipalities to have bilateral engagements on key thematic areas such as climate change.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR IUDF

When the IUDF was adopted by Cabinet in 2016 it was accompanied by an implementation plan, the initial target date was 2016-2019. Some strides have been in the first phase of the implementation laying a solid foundation for an urban revolution in our country. Now that the term for the first implementation plan has come to an end, the Department of Cooperative Governance together with key stakeholders are working on a new plan that will cover the 2020-2025 period.

The new implementation plan will align with the localization of the New Urban Agenda, the District Development Model (DDM) initiative and other critical government interventions, taking an approach for 'all of government'.It is crucial therefore that government provides the required resources and capacity to develop effective plans and interventions to achieve the urban vision, as outlined in the IUDF. A crucial aspect is that, apart from realigning and re-establishing commitment across all of government to deliver on the goals of the IUDF, closer partnership and engagement needs to be fostered with other societal actors (civil society, business, communities) if we are to drive a truly 'whole of society'. It is clear that it is not possible for government alone to achieve a fundamentally transformed outcome in our cities and towns across the country. Thus, we need to actively and deliberately work towards partnership and coordination, led by the vision of the IUDF.

The process of developing and implementing the IUDF will not depart from the principles that govern the IUDF. Therefore, the IUDF will capitalize on pursuing to reap the benefits of the urban dividend as one of its main principles. The IUDF Implementation Plan is developed at a time where the COVID-19 pandemic is challenging the implementation of a national responses in our cities and towns especially townships and informal settlements. This means that as we implement the IUDF, dedicated focus needs to placed on issues of resilience in our cities and towns, especially townships and informal settlements. We are excited about this new phase and finalizing the implementation plan that will steer us to a new deal for South African cities and towns which are compact, connected and coordinated.

The IUDF strategic goals

To achieve the IUDF's transformative vision, four overall strategic goals are introduced.

Access

To ensure people have access to social and economic services, opportunities and choices.

Growth

To harness urban dynamism for inclusive, sustainable economic growth and development.

Governance

To enhance the capacity of the state and its citizens to work together to achieve social integration.

Spatial Transformation

To forge new spatial forms in settlement, transport, social and economic areas.