



VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW 2025



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Disclaimer

All attempts have been made to ensure that the data and information contained in this report are accurate, valid, and complete. However, the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality (EMM) cannot be held liable for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracy in the data/information, regardless of how they may have been caused, or for any decision made, or action taken, or not taken by anyone using or relying on this report.

Opening Statement



As the Mayor of EMM, it is with great pleasure that I present this Voluntary Local Review (VLR) documenting our journey in adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs serve as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. In eThekweni, we have embraced this call with enthusiasm and determination. This VLR showcases our municipality's commitment to sustainable development and our efforts to align our strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and actions with the SDGs. By integrating the SDGs into our local agenda, we aim to address the interconnected challenges facing our communities while advancing economic, social, and environmental progress.

Legislation and regulations play a crucial role in driving our sustainability agenda. Through strong legislative frameworks and regulatory mechanisms, we establish an environment that fosters sustainable development. From urban planning to environmental protection, from social welfare to economic empowerment, our laws and regulations form the foundation upon which we build a more equitable, resilient, sustainable, and prosperous future for all residents of eThekweni.

In this VLR, you will find detailed insights into how we are implementing the SDGs at the local level, the progress we have made, and the challenges we continue to face. By transparently sharing our experiences, successes, and lessons learned, we hope to inspire other municipalities and stakeholders to join us in this collective endeavour towards a more sustainable and inclusive world.

I extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of this VLR, including our dedicated municipal staff, our partners in government, the South African Local Government Association, civil society, academia, and the private sector, as well as the residents of eThekweni whose resilience and innovation drive our progress. Together, let us continue to work tirelessly towards achieving the SDGs, leaving no one behind, and building a brighter future for generations to come.

City Managers message



It is with great pride and optimism that I present this SDG Voluntary Local Review (VLR) for EMM. This report is a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to align our local strategies with the United Nations' SDGs and showcases the strides we have made towards a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future for our community.

The SDGs are a powerful framework for tackling the multifaceted challenges that cities like ours face, from poverty and inequality to climate change and infrastructure development. At eThekwini, we recognize that local government plays a pivotal role in translating these global aspirations into concrete actions that improve the lives of our residents. Our municipality has taken deliberate steps to integrate the SDGs into our policies, projects, and daily operations, ensuring that no one and no place is left behind.

This VLR documents not only our successes but also the challenges we continue to face. The impacts of climate change, resource constraints, and socio-economic disparities remain pressing concerns for us. Yet, we remain steadfast in our commitment to addressing these issues through strategic partnerships, innovative initiatives, and community engagement. As this review demonstrates, eThekwini is a municipality on a journey of transformation—one that is driven by a shared vision for a sustainable future.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to this review, including our dedicated municipal teams, stakeholders, and community members. Together, we are making tangible progress towards achieving the SDGs, and I am confident that by continuing to work collaboratively, we will build a city that is more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable for all.

Let us remain committed to the task at hand, mindful of the work that lies ahead, and inspired by the positive change that our efforts will bring for current and future generations.

Highlights

This Voluntary Local Review (VLR) provides minor updates to the VLR 2024, which aimed to report on how EMM has been working towards adopting the 2030 New Urban Agenda as a guide for developing and managing its public policies to achieve prosperity and peace for people and the planet through partnerships. The highlights summarise the key findings, progress, challenges, and recommendations from the comprehensive VLR conducted by eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, located on the south-eastern coast of South Africa, in alignment with the United Nations SDGs.

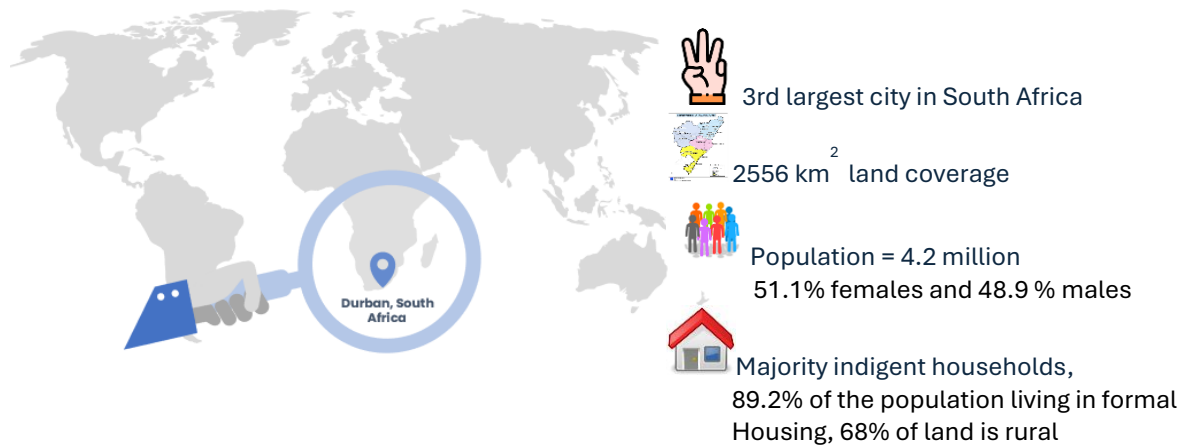
EThekweni Municipality has exhibited progress across multiple SDGs, showcasing a commitment to localizing the global agenda for sustainable development. The following elements have been constant considerations throughout this journey:

- **Inclusive Development:** The need for fostering inclusive development by implementing targeted programmes to address social disparities and ensure that the benefits of development reach all segments of the population.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Notable achievements have been realized in environmental sustainability, with initiatives such as the "Green Corridor" project contributing to biodiversity conservation and the promotion of renewable energy.
- **Community Engagement:** Strong community engagement has been a driving force, empowering residents to actively participate in shaping the municipality's sustainable development journey.
- **Improved Access to Basic Services:** The municipality has successfully enhanced access to essential services. EThekweni's commitment to SDGs is evident through tangible achievements and transformative initiatives.
- **Economic Resilience:** Initiatives aimed at fostering economic resilience and providing decent work contribute to improved livelihoods, while also aligning with the SDGs.
- **Smart Urban Planning:** Thoughtful urban planning has positioned eThekweni as a model for sustainable cities and communities, with an emphasis on green spaces, efficient public transportation, and community-centric development.
- **Socio-Economic Inequalities:** Addressing persistent socio-economic inequalities remains a challenge, necessitating focused interventions to uplift marginalised communities.
- **Climate Resilience:** Climate-related challenges pose a threat, emphasising the need for strengthened and robust resilience strategies, including infrastructure improvements and community education, to mitigate the impact of climate change.

- **Resource Constraints:** Limited financial resources underscore the importance of exploring innovative financing mechanisms to sustain and expand SDG initiatives.
- **Explore Innovative Financing:** Investigate and adopt innovative financing mechanisms, including public-private partnerships, to overcome financial constraints and support sustainable development initiatives.

The process of developing the first voluntary local review has offered the opportunity for introspection from city officials and provided valuable input, not only for the purpose of the SDGs but also in questioning whether the municipality is doing enough to improve the lives of the city residents. The process of data collection is ongoing, and this 2025 update provides an indication of the updated data, where available.

Introduction



Durban is located on the east coast of South Africa. Also known as the eThekweni Municipality, it was formed in 2000 by an amalgamation of the City of Durban and surrounding towns and is one of the largest cities on the Indian Ocean coast of the African continent. As a port city, EMM is known to be the home of the busiest port in Africa. It is one of eleven districts in the province of KwaZulu-Natal and is characterised by elevated levels of poverty and unemployment, high levels of inequality, water scarcity, and hilly terrain with many gorges and ravines. Despite these challenges, it remains the economic powerhouse of the province and is characterised by a diversified economy, with strengths ranging from manufacturing, logistics, property, and finance to tourism, leisure, sports, as well as arts and culture. Recognised as one of the new seven wonder cities of the world, it is home to many attractions including:

- The iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium, which hosted several 2010 Soccer World Cup games and is home to the world's tallest rope swing.
- The multi-award-winning Durban International Convention Centre which bagged five consecutive clean audits.
- Ushaka Marine World which is the largest aquarium in Africa and the eighth largest in the world.
- The Inanda Cultural Tourism Route.
- The natural beauty of the Valley of a 1000 Hills.
- The iconic voting station where President Nelson Mandela cast his first vote.

The vision is that “By 2030, eThekweni Municipality will enjoy the reputation of being Africa’s most caring and livable city, where all citizens live in harmony.”

In line with the vision, the municipality aims to strengthen its position as a pioneer and leading example in the process of localising and implementing SDGs in the Global South. As the municipality, we acknowledge our responsibility to implement global targets at a local level inclusively and sustainably that does not leave anyone or any place behind. As part of this process, EMM recognizes the need to institutionalise SDGs to support our strategic approach of thinking globally and acting locally in governance, service delivery efforts, and engagement with other stakeholders. While enhancing the SDG efforts, the city must seize this opportunity to gain a better understanding of the progress made in implementing SDGs and to monitor progress towards sustainable development.

Local and regional governments play a pivotal role in translating the aspirations of the SDGs into tangible actions that resonate with the unique needs and dynamics of their communities. The EMM serves as a testament to the significance of local engagement in achieving global sustainability targets. As a cornerstone of governance closest to the people, municipalities are uniquely positioned to effect change that directly impacts the lives of residents.

The urgency of localising the SDGs is underscored by the recognition that sustainable development is not a one-size-fits-all endeavour. Each municipality brings to the fore its distinctive challenges, opportunities, and aspirations, making the localisation of the SDGs an intricate and nuanced process. By aligning local strategies with the global SDG agenda, municipalities can proactively address issues ranging from poverty and inequality to climate change and infrastructure development.

With the sustainable development goals premised on progressively eliminating extreme poverty and facilitating sustainable development that considers the environment, economy and people equally, cities are now leading the efforts to achieve these goals. Cities play a crucial role in translating the global agenda into local action. Therefore, for the world to achieve these ambitious targets, cities must play a pivotal role in localizing, implementing, monitoring and reporting on SDGs.

Many of the issues addressed by the SDGs, such as poverty, inequality, clean water, education, and climate change, directly impact local communities. Local and regional governments are essential in implementing policies and practices that directly influence these issues. In numerous countries, governance structures are decentralized, giving significant responsibilities to local and regional authorities. While there has been significant decentralisation of responsibilities to local government, there has not been the requisite human capital and financial resource allocation to accompany the additional responsibilities. These local and

regional authorities play a vital role in translating national policies into actionable initiatives tailored to local contexts. Local governments often have a better understanding of the needs and challenges of their communities. By focusing on the SDGs, they can work towards inclusivity, ensuring that no one is left behind in the developmental process.

Purpose of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR)

This VLR serves as a comprehensive exploration of the EMM's journey towards sustainable development. It is a testament to the municipality's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement. The VLR serves three primary purposes:

Progress Review to provide a detailed assessment of the progress made by EMM in the implementation of SDGs. This includes an examination of achievements, successful initiatives, and the impact on the community. **Identification of Challenges** to identify and analyse the challenges and obstacles faced by the municipality in the pursuit of SDGs. This critical analysis will guide the formulation of targeted strategies for overcoming hurdles. **Best Practice Sharing** to showcase innovative approaches, successful projects, and partnerships that have emerged within the municipality. By sharing these best practices, eThekweni aims to contribute to the collective knowledge of local governments globally, fostering a spirit of collaboration and mutual learning.

As EMM embarks on this comprehensive review, the city recognises the interconnectedness of local actions with global outcomes. The EMM's commitment to sustainable development is not merely a civic duty; it is a testament to the transformative power of communities when united in the pursuit of a shared vision for a sustainable and resilient future. Through the lens of the VLR, EMM invites stakeholders, locally, nationally, and globally, to join the city on this reflective journey and collectively strive for a world where no one and no place is left behind.

VLRs provide local and regional governments with a platform to assess their progress toward achieving the SDGs. By reviewing their efforts and outcomes, they can identify areas where they have made strides and where more work is needed. VLRs help in identifying challenges and obstacles faced by local communities in achieving the SDGs. These challenges could be specific to certain goals or universal issues affecting multiple goals. Recognising these challenges is the first step toward finding solutions.

One of the significant advantages of VLRs is the opportunity for local and regional governments to share best practices. Effective strategies employed by one community can inspire and guide others facing similar challenges. This sharing of knowledge promotes collaboration and accelerates progress. VLRs foster transparency and accountability. By voluntarily reporting their progress, local and regional governments are held accountable not only to their citizens but also to the global community. This accountability encourages continuous efforts toward achieving the SDGs.

Methodology and process for preparation of the review

Achievement of the SDGs is critical to ensuring that the lives of all Earth's inhabitants are improved and that the world can sustain and, where possible, improve the quality of the natural habitat. There is a common adage in the performance monitoring and evaluation space that says, "What gets measured gets done." In the context of the SDGs, this adage is monumental as it is only by tracking progress on achieving the goals that we can determine the progress and course correct if necessary.

The introduction and finalisation of the global goals were followed by a list of indicators and targets to measure the progress that was suggested by the United Nations. This final list underwent discussion and consideration amongst participating countries. However, not all indicators are relevant to all countries and cities. Therefore, in a similar exercise to that followed by other cities worldwide, the list of indicators suggested by the United Nations has been localised to ensure relevance to eThekweni Municipality. This localisation exercise required assessing each of the 169 targets and 247 indicators for relevancy in the local context. When necessary, the indicators were modified to promote this relevancy. These changes could have been as simple as changing a few words in the indicator or changing the entire indicator.

Additional indicators were also included if necessary. The EMM Strategy Office is currently the custodian for research and facilitation of data management and SDG alignment to overall city strategy. The EMM Performance Monitoring and Evaluations Unit is responsible for monitoring non-financial performance for the city. Therefore, the responsibility for monitoring progress on the SDGs is coordinated by the EMM Strategy Office and the Performance Monitoring & Evaluations Unit. An open SDG portal has been created as part of the City's Strategic Hub to host SDG-related updates and to be used for SDG reporting.

Part of the journey being undertaken by eThekweni is also to assess the availability of data for reporting on the proposed indicators. To effectively report, data needs to be available at a disaggregated level. Where available, reporting data is sourced from municipal reporting and other verified reliable sources, which sources are determined by the indicator requirements. This process is also capitalising on our partnerships with organisations and other government departments, who can provide us with data to report on local indicators. Furthermore, the national statistics body, Statistics South Africa, has commenced the provision of disaggregated statistics for selected indicators, enabling reporting on certain indicators with data that complies with the South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SASQAF). This promotes reliance on the data, especially when used for future decision-making.

Where Statistics SA is unable to provide disaggregated data, where available, data sourced from municipal reporting processes have been used. A significant point to note is that when data sourced from internal reporting has been used, this is data that has been verified as part of internal and/or external auditing processes. While additional data may be available, it has not been used for reporting if the data has not undergone an auditing process by the Auditor General of South Africa to promote, accuracy, reliability and comparability. While the achievement of some targets does not fall within the municipal mandate, the eThekweni Municipality is tracking and reporting on all possible indicators in the Open SDG portal. This decision was taken as we recognise that we do not exist in isolation and that the provision of a holistic picture is necessary. For this voluntary local review, the EMM has focused on the following SDGs:



Although the city acknowledges that the goals are interconnected, interdependent, and interrelated, and achieving one goal often results in positive strides toward achieving others, these goals were prioritised based on their alignment with the municipal mandate and the pressing economic, social, and environmental needs of municipalities. These prioritised goals encompass goals where further effort is required. Satisfactory progress has been made on other goals (not included in this VLR) e.g. SDG 3 where municipal clinics provide the required basic health care services.

It should be noted that the:

- Results presented are based on the latest available data.
- Results are reported per municipal fiscal year, which runs from July 01 to June 30 the next year, as opposed to the calendar year.
- Prior to 2018/19, indigent households were based on counts from aerial surveys. Subsequently, the indigent count is determined based on the value of the property.

Policy and enabling environment

Engagement with the national government on SDG implementation

South Africa has existing structures in place for coordination among local, provincial, and national governments. These structures are in place to align planning instruments and engage in the implementation of various initiatives. The City Support programme, an initiative of the South African National Treasury, provides support in the implementation of selected initiatives and projects that promote the achievement of the SDGs, such as technical support in developing a Turnaround Strategy for eThekweni Water and Sanitation, and the Cities Infrastructure Delivery and Management System process.

Furthermore, EMM is a pilot for the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM). This model requires all government organisations with a role to play within the municipal boundaries to work together to plan these initiatives to streamline and eradicate duplication of effort. One of the key areas being advocated is Multi Governance Planning. The DDM has been identified as one of the key intervention areas by South Africa at the UN regarding the implementation of Multi-Governance Planning, with the development of the One Plan showing that Multi-Governance Planning is possible. As a pilot city, many challenges are being experienced in the implementation of this model, but progress is being made to improve coordination. As part of future actions, DDM structures and participating organisations will be approached to provide data for SDG reporting.

For the purposes of the production of this VLR, a forum was established to provide technical assistance to a group of selected municipalities. Technical assistance was primarily provided by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and related partnering organisations. Discussions held during the workshops related to producing the VLRs, provision of disaggregated data for reporting and coordinating efforts and statistics so that these can be used in the Voluntary National Review (VNR). An outcome of the workshops has been the recognition of the need for regular collaboration among all spheres of government to improve effectiveness and efficiency and to obtain a multiplier effect of the efforts employed in the implementation of initiatives.

Creating ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals and the VLRs

Communication and advocacy are areas in which the EMM has excelled, particularly within the last year. In April 2023, an SDG awareness survey was conducted among staff within the municipality. The results confirmed that while some awareness of the SDGs existed among the survey respondents, all respondents expressed a desire for more knowledge to be shared. This initiated a renewed effort to increase awareness, both among municipal officials and city residents.



Source: eThekweni Communications (2023).

National Science Week 2023



One of the initiatives aimed at raising awareness among young people was developed in partnership with Eskom. In 2023, the National Science Week focused on two themes: Renewable Energy and Agriculture. Eskom organized two events dedicated to the National Science Week as part of the Eskom Science Fair, one in July 2023 in Durban and another in August 2023 in Richards Bay. During these events, EMM presented initiatives aimed at transitioning to more renewable sources of energy. Learners were also involved in brainstorming and presenting their suggested solutions to selected municipal challenges, showcasing their innovative potential and emphasising the importance of providing opportunities for their input. Additionally, EMM assisted in judging the Science Expo, specifically focusing on the Sustainable Development category of the event.

Public Art/ Murals

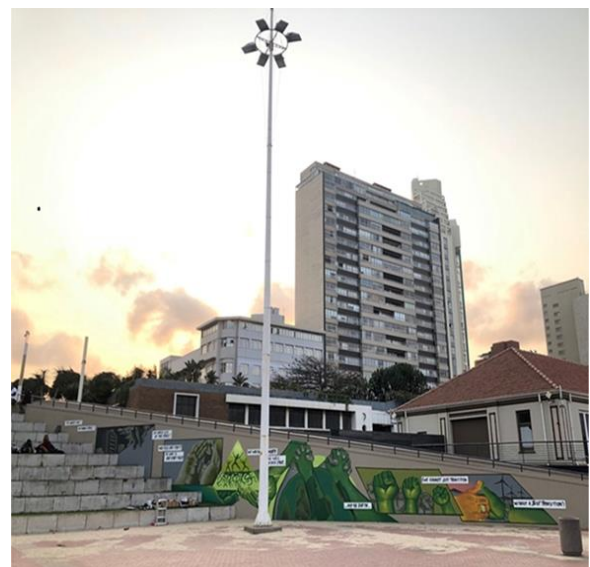
Public art and murals are gaining popularity worldwide and are seen as a trendy way to convey messages to viewers. Furthermore, murals generate interest among community members who question the significance of the visuals, leading to discussions about the SDGs. The murals in the EMM are created in collaboration with the community members living around or using the public spaces in the vicinity of the murals. Workshops are conducted with the community to raise awareness about the selected SDG for that location and to gather their ideas for the mural's content. Community members have shown immense interest in the murals and the SDG messages, with overwhelmingly positive responses. Murals focusing on SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 8, SDG 13, SDG 11, and SDG 17 are complete with other murals being developed. The murals are strategically placed: The mural for SDG 11 is painted on the outer wall of a homeless shelter, symbolizing the EMM's commitment to inclusivity. Murals for SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 13, and SDG 17

are located at popular high-traffic locations along the promenade near the city's central beaches to maximize exposure, generate curiosity, and increase awareness of the goals. The mural related to SDG 8 has been painted at a women's shelter that encourages and seeks to build capacity for women to have decent economic opportunities and productive employment.

Payless Shelter Mural for SDG 11



North Beach Mural for SDG 13



The Litterboom Mural for SDG 6



The Gender equality mural for SDG 5

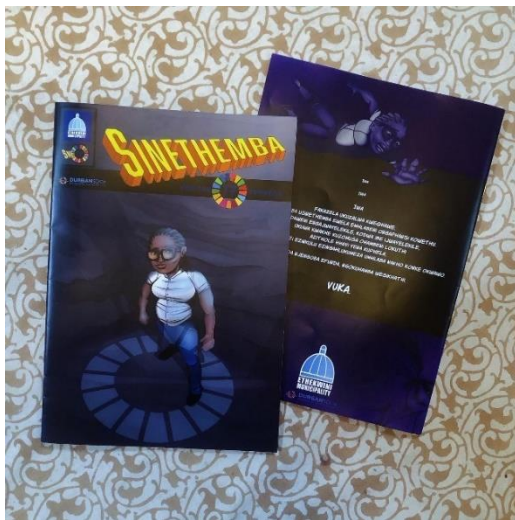


Storytelling

Another highly successful initiative was the creation of SDG awareness among young people using storytelling. An experienced storyteller conducted storytelling sessions at schools. The stories were based on the local context, in the local language, and creatively engaged learners, to make the importance of achieving the SDGs more relevant to their environments. Once again, the response from learners and stakeholders was very encouraging.

SDG Comic Book

EMM has published an engaging comic book aimed at raising awareness of the SDGs. The storyline follows a young person's journey of discovering the SDGs and promotes a holistic approach to achieving these goals. The comic book will be available in both print and electronic formats, in English and isiZulu, with the potential to be translated into other languages based on demand. It is designed to serve as a tool to enhance SDG awareness in schools and youth-focused programmes. The online version is available at <https://Sne17.com>.



Publications

Work done on the SDGs has provided valuable lessons for officials and the municipality. The findings, lessons learned, and recommendations have been shared in a published journal titled “Cocreated Data-Driven Approach to SDG Institutionalisation, Localisation, and Deepening: eThekweni Municipality.” The journal outlines eThekweni Municipality's efforts to use a data-driven approach to institutionalise, localise, and deepen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation. It emphasizes the importance of building a sound data ecosystem, collaborating with multidisciplinary stakeholders, and ensuring data integrity and anonymity. The

municipality has established an SDG Institutionalisation Committee, conducted indicator localisation, and mapped linkages between SDGs to deepen understanding. The document highlights the significance of city-level data in improving policymaking, decision-making, and achieving SDG targets at local government level. It also underscores the importance of aligning data collection systems with city priorities and global goals for effective SDG implementation.

A second peer-reviewed, published journal highlights the findings of a study undertaken as part of a joint grant-funded project with the University College London, titled “Localisation of links between sanitation and the Sustainable Development Goals to inform municipal policy in eThekweni Municipality, South Africa.” This publication examines the synergies, trade-offs and risks associated with implementing initiatives that promote the achievement of the targets for SDG6.

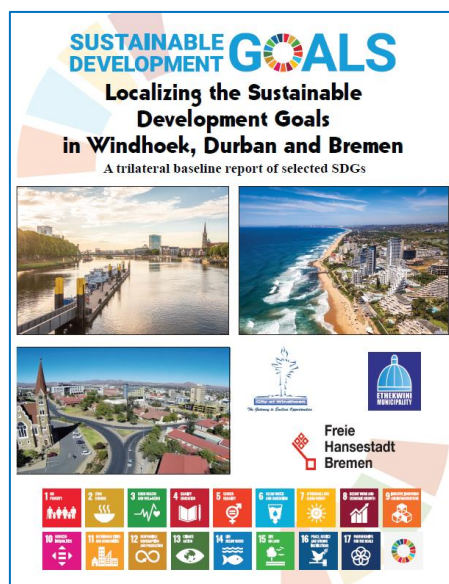
The paper specifically addresses sanitation in eThekweni Municipality, South Africa, within the SDG framework. It addresses challenges in achieving universal sanitation access by 2030, especially for vulnerable groups, despite the progress made to date. The document emphasizes the need for inclusive service provision to avoid exacerbating inequalities. It highlights the importance of localizing links between sanitation and the SDGs to inform policymaking and optimize resource allocation based on evidence of multiple benefits across different goals.

City officials from eThekweni Municipality have also contributed to the development of the SDG 11 Global Report that was presented to the UN in 2023, with EMM being one of the few cities represented in the expert group meeting.

In 2023, EMM also published an SDG report titled “The experience of localising SDGs at eThekweni.” The report reflects on the journey and experiences during the municipality’s localisation and institutionalisation process and highlights key activities undertaken.



Additionally, a ‘how-to’ brief titled “Building a Data Ecosystem to Accelerate Local SDG Progress and Action” was published in 2021, detailing how eThekweni Municipality collaborated with external stakeholders to drive data solutions for reporting on the SDGs.



In October 2024, the Trilateral Partnership between Durban, Bremen and Windhoek resulted in the publication of a report (pictured above) that provides a baseline assessment for a common set of SDG indicators that will be monitored amongst the 3 cities. Details on this project are provided further in this report. It was also presented at the World Urban Forum 12 in November 2024.

SDG videos

Visual representations are commonly known to convey messaging better, as they hold the attention of the viewer. As such, seven videos have been created and published to highlight the innovative initiatives being undertaken within the municipality. The videos provide context for the projects, the partners involved and the SDGs to which the project contributes. Many enquiries and comments were received following the publishing of these videos, particularly via social media, pointing to the success of using this form of communication. Some of these queries are offers of partnerships with exploration of the possibilities being undertaken.

Conferences and Webinars (internal & external)

The municipality hosted a webinar following the SDG survey to share knowledge of the SDGs with officials. The online seminar was well attended, and more webinars for officials and community members are being planned.

In addition, several municipal officials have been requested to present at conferences and webinars to share the experiences of the municipality in implementing the SDGs and to report progress on behalf of the municipality. As a result, the EMM has gained the reputation of being the forerunner within SDG implementation South Africa. In many cases, the city is also viewed in this positive light by counterparts worldwide and the city is called upon to lead and provide opinions in many scenarios.

Other publications, social media posts

Successful initiatives, events related to the SDG goals, and valuable information for the community are regularly shared on the municipal website and social media platforms. These platforms are also used to communicate SDG efforts.

Training

Officials from the municipality have gained valuable knowledge and skills relating to the SDGs over the years. As a result, these officials have been called on to provide training and host masterclasses for counterparts locally, nationally, and internationally. The Municipality has hosted Train the Trainer SDG sessions in Durban, using the co-created material by UCLG and UNDP. The city has also provided examples of the tool kits used in the Train the Trainer Programme. Some of the city officials were instrumental in writing up the SDG Toolkits based on their experience in sustainable development.

Many of these capacity-building initiatives are facilitated by the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE). MILE, a knowledge management initiative of the EMM, also oversees the knowledge management aspect related to the SDGs.

Stakeholder Engagement

Upon the adoption of the SDGs, EMM began engaging with stakeholders, both within the organization and externally. As momentum to implement the SDGs increased, several partnerships with stakeholders were established. One significant success has been the positive

impact these partnerships afforded to achieve the SDG targets. Several SDG-related projects involve the participation of previously marginalised and vulnerable groups. Examples of these projects include:

- Sisonke Food Garden Project where homeless community members (including refugees, migrants, or internally displaced people) plant and maintain a food garden (contributing to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 11, SDG 13, and SDG 17).
- Karibu Community Care Project where unemployed, homeless youths were trained and provided with employment at the Southern Sun Group (contributing to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 11, and SDG 17).
- The Human Security Assessment in KwanDengezi where members of the disabled community are being engaged to begin a community food garden (contributing to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 16, and SDG 17).
- One Home One garden project which focuses on establishing food gardens for previously disadvantaged community members (contributing to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 11, and SDG 17).
- Organ Donor memorial Garden where people on the autism spectrum completed the mosaic work on the concrete benches installed as part of the project. (Contributing to SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 11, and SDG 17)

Stakeholders participate in implementing SDGs through various partnerships and community-based activities. Some of these partnerships can be initiated by the stakeholders, some by the municipality, or by other partners. Academic institutions play a vital role as stakeholders. The multiple memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the academic institutions within the province enable collaboration on several innovative projects and requests for research.

As part of this VLR process, two separate stakeholder engagement sessions were held – one for internal stakeholders and another for external stakeholders. Attendees at session one were from key municipal units that have been instrumental in undertaking projects contributing to achieving the SDGs such as Economic Development, Strategy Office, Water and Sanitation, City Health, Performance Monitoring & Evaluation, and Safer Cities. Representatives from Statistics South

Africa, The National Planning Commission Secretariat, SALGA, and UNDESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) were also in attendance.

These internal stakeholders were also present at the external stakeholder session. They were joined by officials from:

- Private Sector
- Statistics South Africa
- Civil society Organizations (CSOs)
- The National Planning Commission Secretariat
- Representatives from Marginalised and vulnerable groups including people with Disabilities.
- Academia

The discussions at both sessions provided valuable insight and recommendations for the municipality. The attendance of these critical external stakeholders demonstrates their commitment to achieving the SDGs and points to the need to capitalise on this interest.

However, there is limited engagement with members of the community from marginalised and vulnerable populations. It was encouraging to note that several representatives from vulnerable and marginalised groups that were invited to the external stakeholder session attended and provided valuable input. The municipality is exploring alternative ways of engaging these vulnerable groups, but more effort is needed to ensure that their input is obtained and considered, particularly when planning infrastructure, programmes, and projects.

Engagement with traditional leaders also requires improvement. With the EMM being 62 percent rural, traditional leaders are instrumental in ensuring proper planning and implementation for effective service delivery, thereby advancing the SDGs. As part of future initiatives, engagement with traditional leaders will feature high on the agenda.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play a pivotal role in the achievement of the SDGs. Therefore, collaboration with these organisations is non-negotiable. EMM has had mixed success in working with CSOs, and as part of the stakeholder engagement activities, CSOs were invited to provide input on the VLR process and on recommendations, they may have to ensure smooth collaboration in future.

The private sector was also invited to the session via the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Previous collaborations have also taken place with multiple businesses in the private sector. Private sector partners are critical stakeholders in advancing the SDGs. Many private sector businesses have embarked on their own organisational SDG initiatives, to the extent that

some have prepared and written their voluntary reviews e.g., Nedbank (Sustainable Development Report, 2021) and Mr Price (Sustainability Report, 2022).

As an additional measure, a questionnaire was distributed to all identified stakeholders, regardless of their attendance at the stakeholder sessions. This served to gather their views on SDG implementation within the municipality.

Incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals in local and regional frameworks

The following table outlines the global, national, and local institutional frameworks that countries and municipalities operate within. By reviewing all the frameworks, one can identify the alignment among them and connect these frameworks to the municipal mandate. It is also important to note that these frameworks provide guidance for addressing current challenges experienced around the world.

AREA	INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS
INTERNATIONAL LEVEL	United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) UN-Habitat's New Urban Agenda The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 The Paris Agreement on Climate Change Addis Ababa Action Agenda
NATIONAL LEVEL	The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Section 152 (1, (Act 108 of 1996) The National Development Plan Provincial Growth and Development Strategy
LOCAL LEVEL	Long-Term Development Plan eThekweni Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2017/18 - 2021/22 (IDP) Spatial Development Framework Strategic Asset Management Plan Asset Management Plan Integrated Asset Management Plan Budget paper Framework for Infrastructure Delivery and Procurement Management District Development Model One Plan Asset management policy

Policy Framework: The eThekweni Municipality has emphasised its commitment to the SDGs by integrating sustainable development principles into local policies and frameworks. The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and the Climate Action Plan demonstrate the municipality's dedication to aligning local strategies with the global SDG agenda. To this end, the EMM IDP has been aligned with the SDGs to ensure that initiatives implemented as part of the IDP are contributing towards the achievement of the SDG targets. Furthermore, the IDP is aligned with global, national, and local strategies, policies and plans aimed at achieving and supporting the SDGs. EMM has also aligned the budget with the SDGs, and we use this as a mechanism to track SDG investments. This was regarded as a best practice by the UN and has also been used in the SDG training toolkits developed by UCLG and UNDP.

Where relevant, global strategies and mandates that are applicable nationally have also been included in the municipality's strategies such as the requirements of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which has been a critical consideration in updating the municipality's Disaster Management Plan.

To achieve the SDGs, the role of infrastructure must be acknowledged. Functional infrastructure is essential for delivering services to communities as mandated by the municipality. As the municipal mandate is also aligned with the SDGs, reliable and sufficient infrastructure also contributes to achieving the SDGs. Current initiatives within the EMM include aligning the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP), Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (IAMP), Asset Management Policy and other infrastructure asset-related strategies and policies with the SDGs.

Institutional Support: The commitment to SDGs is demonstrated through a Council resolution affirming such support as well as continuous support from office bearers and administrative officials for initiatives aligned with achieving the SDGs. Councillors actively participate in high-level events, meetings and engagements related to the SDGs, offering valuable input into processes and initiatives. Furthermore, councillors and office bearers advocate for the SDGs on multiple platforms, enabling EMM to obtain support for numerous initiatives.

Strategic Initiatives: EMM has launched strategic initiatives that support the SDGs on a global scale. One example is the "Green Corridor" project, which demonstrates the municipality's commitment to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), by promoting renewable energy use and conservation of biodiversity in urban planning. Other strategic initiatives related to achieving the targets are covered in different sections of this VLR. From a strategic support perspective, EMM is exploring the use of the District Development Model (DDM) structures to obtain data for monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. Although this exploration is

still in its early stages, if successful, it could provide access to more data for comprehensive reporting in the next VLR.

Community Engagement: Recognising the pivotal role of community participation, eThekweni engages residents through various forums, fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility. Community members are engaged through workshops, social media, requests for comment on specific matters and invitations to collaborate at all levels. Community-led projects, such as neighbourhood clean-up initiatives and sustainable living workshops, contribute to the achievement of SDGs at the grassroots level.

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms: Transparent monitoring and reporting mechanisms are essential to eThekweni's commitment to accountability. Annual updates on progress on achieving the SDG indicators are undertaken whenever data is available. These results are available to view and download from the Open SDG Portal that is used for SDG reporting. In many cases, local SDG indicators are derived from indicators used for city-based performance reporting, which improves efficiency, and streamlines reporting. By doing so, EMM also reinforces the alignment of the SDGs with the municipal mandate and the numerous initiatives already being implemented.

Partnerships and Collaborations: EThekweni Municipality actively fosters partnerships with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities. Collaborative efforts are apparent in initiatives e.g. within the water and sanitation sector, as the municipality works with external stakeholders to ensure universal access. EMM has recognised the importance of partnerships and collaboration for initiatives to be successful, and therefore, every effort is made to create and maintain long-term partnerships.

Capacity Building and Education: In order to fortify the municipality's commitment to SDGs, eThekweni invests in capacity-building programmes for its employees and community members. Educational campaigns focussing on sustainable living practices contribute to the local culture of sustainability, aligning with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

Leaving no one behind

EMM has implemented several initiatives aimed at engaging marginalised and vulnerable groups. These initiatives are undertaken by the mayor's parlour, Safer Cities Unit, Community Participation and Action Support Unit, and involve project-specific activities within other municipal environments. Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and the Municipal special purpose vehicle, City People eThekweni, also support initiatives that seek to ensure that all members of the community are heard, and their needs are addressed.

Institutional mechanisms

Due to the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs, every sector within the municipality has a role to play in progressing the achievement of the targets. As such, obtaining support from the political leadership and administrative component was critical. Within the EMM, initiatives supporting the achievement of the SDG targets have and continue to receive support from these role players. The approval to commence working on the first voluntary local review was approved by the municipal council in 2020. The commencement of the process was delayed by the onset of COVID-19 and the reprioritisation of efforts to deal with the disasters experienced, but the city's commitment to the process has been reaffirmed with the production of this VLR.

Within EMM, the governance framework is provided by:

- a) The Executive Committee (EXCO), which provides political oversight.
- b) The Executive Management Committee (EMC), which provides:
 - Strategic direction to the SDG Institutionalisation Committee; and
 - Approval of all plans and frameworks as presented by the SDG Institutionalisation Committee.

The EMC can recommend the submission of reports to other relevant City leadership structures for noting, recommendation or approval, if necessary.

- c) SDG Institutionalisation Committee, which is responsible for developing strategy, planning, and implementing activities, providing support to coordinate implementation, mobilization of stakeholders, SDG monitoring and reporting, and data collection for reporting.

The SDG Institutionalisation Committee comprises representatives from all municipal units. These representatives are responsible for communicating information, requirements, and other important details to officials within their units. These members also support the efforts around data collection, verification, and reporting. In addition, they provide information about SDG-related projects being undertaken for alignment, consolidation and tracking purposes.

Institutional arrangements, partnerships, and coordination mechanisms

The municipality is an active member of C40, a network of the world's megacities dedicated to addressing climate change, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). As a result, it participates at various forums to discuss topics related to institutionalisation, localisation, and reporting. Furthermore, EMM maintains an active partnership with United Nations Habitat (UN Habitat). Municipality officials have represented the EMM's perspective on relevant matters at UN assemblies and other fora.

EThekweni Municipality is also a member of The Brookings Institute. This membership has offered the municipality benchmarking, learning opportunities, and a platform to raise awareness about some of the challenges, and collectively identify solutions.

The City of London invited eThekweni municipality to participate in the World's TO-DO list campaign in 2022. The campaign sees the SDGs as a to-do list for the world. It is a communication campaign aimed at raising awareness by displaying the SDGs on huge Post-it notes on buildings, vehicles, bridges, etc.



The EMM has successful, active partnerships with the following organisations:

- United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
- City of Bremen, Germany
- City of Hamburg, Germany
- Netherlands Embassy in South Africa
- Peace In Our Cities Working Group
- GIZ, German Institute for Cooperation for Sustainable Development
- University of Chicago

- World Bank
- Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA)
- Various Government Institutions
- Academia (Durban University of Technology, University of KwaZulu-Natal)
- Various civil society organisations
- Private Sector (Toyota, Southern Sun Group, Sanlam, Old Mutual)

Partnerships are supported by the EMM International and Governance Relations Unit, and coordinated by EMM units that work on the content related to the partnership. They also coordinate collaboration with municipal units. More details about these partnerships follow in subsequent sections of this report.

Structural issues

The EMM was first introduced to the SDGs when they were adopted by the United Nations. At that time, it was mainly officials who were working on strategy and aligning municipal programmes who were aware of the implications of achieving the SDGs. As time passed, there was a growing realization of the important role that municipalities and officials at all levels must play. It became clear that the targets cannot be achieved without their involvement, as most initiatives are undertaken by local government. In the case of the EMM, involvement in the SDGs began through the city's initiatives, partnerships and networks, as opposed to national or provincial intervention. Municipal officials began advocating for the importance of the role of municipalities in the process both nationally and internationally and continue to do so at every opportunity. With this ongoing advocacy work, officials within the municipality began working on SDG localisation and institutionalisation without a national call to do so. It is encouraging that the role of municipalities has now been realised, but time was lost in the process, with the goals needing to be cascaded to officials working on projects that would enable achievement of the goals.

There is still limited awareness of the SDGs in some parts of society, and even amongst municipal officials. This hinders the intention of getting everyone involved in achieving the targets. Multiple efforts have recently been undertaken to increase awareness of the SDGs and their importance in achieving prosperity for the planet and its people. Additional awareness initiatives are planned and will continue, focusing on young people.

The Covid-19 pandemic also negatively impacted the progress towards achieving the goals. Various projects that contributed towards achieving targets came to a standstill, and like the rest of the world, the city lost valuable time in implementing these projects. The pandemic contributed to more job losses within the city as businesses closed. The closure of these businesses due to the pandemic, along with the poor state of the economy and the increased number of unemployed residents, affected the ability of residents and businesses to pay their bills. The resultant negative impact on the fiscus is still being felt.

Moreover, EMM is increasingly falling victim to disasters, whether they are natural or human caused. The occurrence of three major floods, one of which was catastrophic, in the last five years bears testament to the impact of climate change on our coastline and weather patterns. These floods have caused extensive damage to our critical infrastructure for service delivery, much of which was already ageing. As a result, we've experienced setbacks in achieving some of the SDGs due to the impact on service delivery. Additionally, the resources that should have been allocated to SDG-related projects have been diverted to deal with the emergency situation caused

by the floods and recent civil unrest in July 2021. This has also resulted in the closure of key businesses, leading to economic downturn, job losses, and decreased investor confidence.

Despite the commitment of our municipality to contributing towards the SDGs, our activities are constrained by human resource limitations. With the vast mandate and expectations placed on municipalities, fiscal pressure restricts our ability to hire officials dedicated to SDG initiatives. However, by fulfilling our municipal mandates, we are inherently contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. Therefore, all our service delivery efforts and innovative projects are directed towards the SDGs. To remedy the resource constraints, officials have actively sought out partnerships with various stakeholders to provide financial and technical support for projects related to the SDGs. These efforts continue and have been instrumental in the successful and innovative achievements of the city.

Strategies to address social, economic, and environmental challenges.

Finding solutions for the social, economic, and environmental challenges being experienced worldwide is the main contributing factor in achieving the SDGs. The EMM has various strategies, policies, and initiatives in place to address these challenges. These include:

Social: The Social Development Strategy; Social Cohesion Summit, events at community level, and the City Safety Strategy, which also focuses on social elements.

Economic: The Economic Recovery Strategy post-COVID; Invest Durban, which facilitates investment in the city to improve the economy; Innovate Durban, which is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes and supports innovation in various sectors to contribute to and improve the economy; the eThekweni Business Support, Tourism and Markets Unit, which provides various types of support to small business within the city and seeks to grow the tourism market; and the eThekweni Economic Development Unit, which concentrates on growing the economy of the city. The Catalytic Projects Unit is instrumental in planning, designing, and implementing catalytic projects that have a multitude of benefits for the economy and society.

Environment: The city is committed to addressing environmental challenges through collective action. The Durban Climate Action Plan has been implemented to tackle these challenges. Strategies for alternative energy, resilience and other environmental plans are also being implemented to remedy these challenges.

The concept of sustainability now includes four key areas, with “Rights” being one of them. NUA and the SDGs advocate for a rights-based approach to sustainable development, and this fourth aspect is integrated into the SDGs as we strive to ensure that no one and no place behind.

Progress and main findings of the VLR process

To date, EMM has aligned budget projects and the IDP with the SDGs. They are also working on introducing new projects to further the SDG agenda. The work undertaken for this publication has confirmed that the city and its partners are making strides in attempts to achieve the goals and it is important to share this.

EMM has also localised the list of SDG indicators suggested by the United Nations and is currently in the process of identifying the baselines and data sources for reporting on these localised indicators, while also reporting on indicators where data is available. In crossing the data availability hurdle, EMM will not only improve the reporting on the SDGs but also enhance the ability to make decisions based on data and evidence. A concern that was noted is that the progress being made at municipal level has not been aggregated to national level to form part of the national reporting on the SDGs. Therefore, the efforts being made to achieve the targets at local government level have not previously been recognised in national reporting. A positive result of the process of preparing this VLR has been the improvement in coordinating reporting with the National Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation.

Progress on goals and targets

This section of the VLR expands on the progress, gaps and future initiatives for each goal. We have included data on specific indicators where available. Data available from the time of adoption of the SDGs, or from the date that data collection began if later than the date of SDG adoption, has been mapped on the included graphs. It should be noted that indicators appended with an “N” indicate new indicators added at municipal level and indicators appended with an “L” are localised indicators. The numbering of these indicators is subject to finalisation.

While results are reported for a particular indicator, any gains made also contribute to the related indicators and goals.

SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Several initiatives are underway to help achieve the targets for SDG1. These initiatives include job creation programmes, measures to stimulate economic growth (such as start-up incubators), skills and training programmes (like plumber and permaculture training). These programmes are supported by social interventions (such as providing free basic services estimated at R5 137.6m in the 2024/25 budget, municipal soup kitchens, and efforts to support refugees, migrants, and internally displaced individuals).

While not a primary municipal mandate, it is incumbent upon all municipalities to contribute towards ending poverty, a responsibility that is supported by the obligation to deliver services to all city residents. There are opportunities to do more to advance this SDG, but limited resources may hinder the pace at which these opportunities can be realised. Based on the successes EMM has had with partnerships, the resource challenges may be overcome by exploring additional partnerships.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Similar to SDG 1, achieving the targets of this SDG is not a core municipal mandate. However, several projects are being implemented that contribute towards this SDG. Notably, the projects include food gardens, agricultural initiatives such as fishponds, agri-hubs, and training and support for small-scale farmers. A highlight of the support provided to small-scale farmers has been the growth in some of the farming initiatives, enabling them to sell their produce to retail stores. They are also being supported by the EMM Business Support Unit to grow their businesses and identify markets.

Multiple partnerships have aided the EMM's contribution to this SDG. We are currently assessing opportunities to expand the food gardens. A critical consideration has been the impact of climate change on food security. Additional work is required to raise awareness among city residents and, where possible, encourage the need for home-based food security initiatives. Additionally, there are plans to explore circular economy-related projects linked to this SDG.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages

The VLR has not prioritized this SDG because municipalities are not mandated to provide primary health service. However, EMM runs municipal clinics that provide primary health care facilities, and there has been consistent progress in meeting local indicators for this SDG.

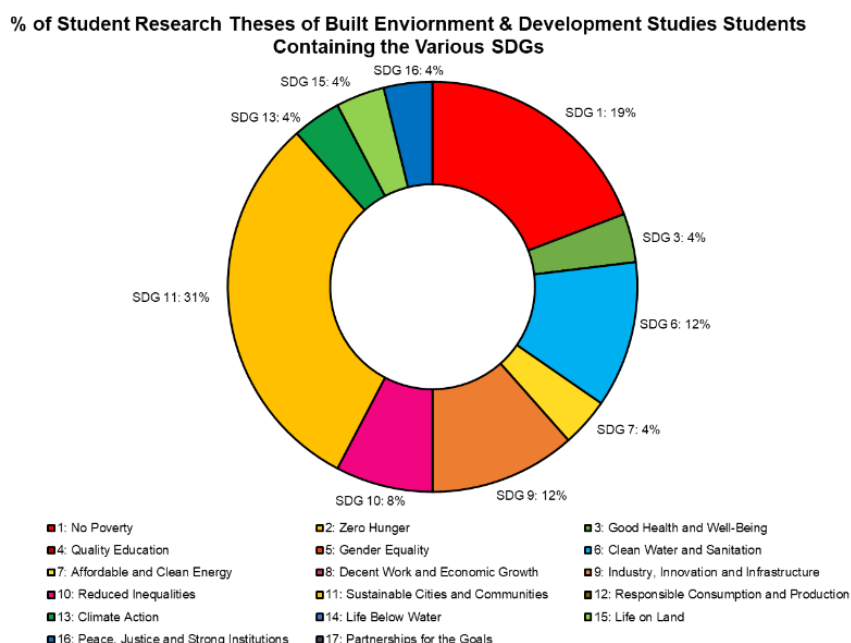
Municipalities are responsible for functions related to environmental health, such as air quality monitoring. Historically, due to the demand for primary health care, resources were predominantly allocated to these functions. There has been a recent drive to focus on environmental health, but more resources are required to improve environmental health within the city.

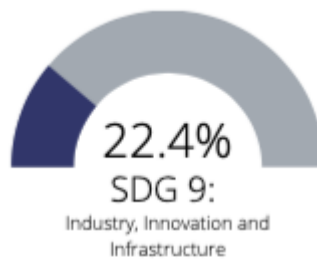
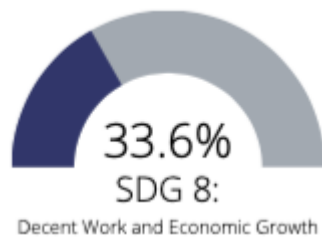
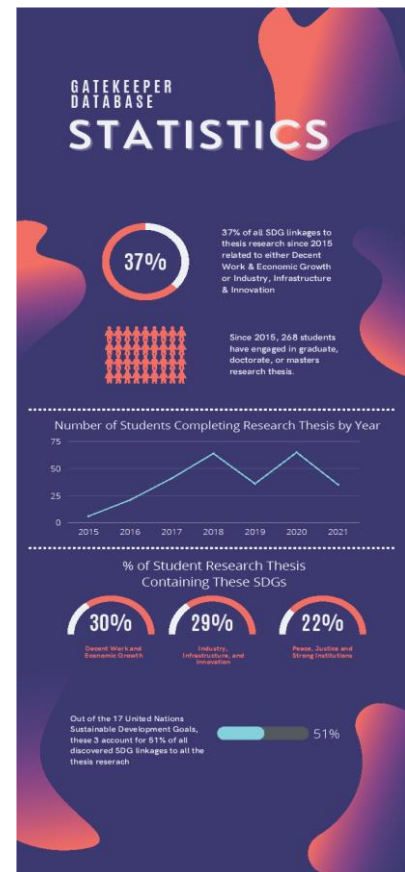
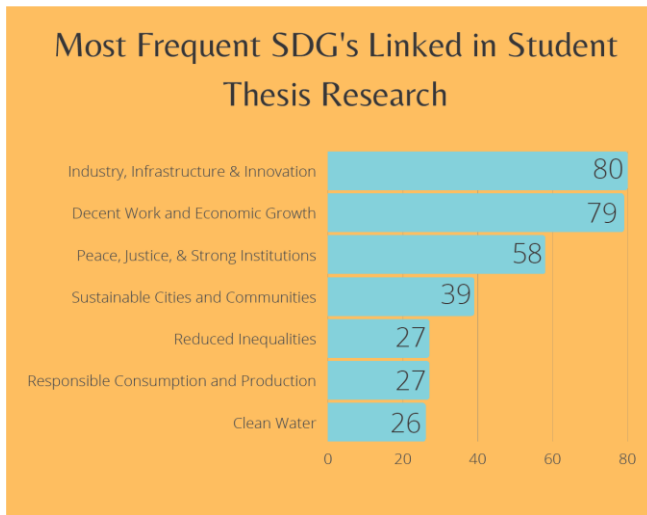
SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Once again, the provision of quality education is not a core municipal mandate, but initiatives undertaken by the EMM Libraries Unit, the eThekweni Municipal Academy and other units, contribute towards this SDG. Projects implemented by these units do not focus solely on young people but also contribute to lifelong learning through skills enhancement workshops for authors, research symposiums, and more. In addition, the city has established and provided support for the establishment of several early childhood development centres, recognising the critical nature of early childhood development.

The EMM has signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with academic institutions country-wide, allowing for robust engagement with academia. Several SDG-related projects are being actioned in partnership with academic institutions, and as partners, they are always willing to support municipal research-related initiatives. Additional feasibility assessments are being undertaken to expand on these initiatives, offering the opportunity for students to learn. EMM also serves as the subject of many honours, master's and doctoral theses, with city leadership always supporting research aimed at helping the city grow and improve.

EThekweni Municipality and the learning city of Durban have consistently supported academic research, with the city space serving as a learning laboratory. Students and researchers from local and international universities who apply for research permission are compelled to demonstrate how their local research links to a global agenda as part of the vetting process. From the data analysed the following infographics indicate this clearly across the 17 SDGs:





% of Student Research Theses Containing The Top 3 SDGs

Most student research proposals connect to the Sustainable Development Goals of Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; and Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gender equality is key to improving society and addressing historical and social challenges. As such, this SDG was selected as a priority for EMM. Improvements are still required, but wide-reaching programmes have been implemented to make inroads into creating gender equality. A glaring gap is the need for more initiatives to support the LGBTQIA+ community and to establish policies and services that cater to their needs.

A critical focus area related to this SDG is Gender-Based Violence and femicide. Some of the initiatives implemented by EMM are highlighted later in this VLR. The safety audit undertaken in partnership with Safetipin provided valuable input into measures required to improve safety for women and girls within the EMM. The results of the audit must be considered for future planning, to ensure safer communities.

Efforts to create opportunities for employment for women, such as cooperative development, have been created to provide a source of income as part of the poverty alleviation strategy. It is hoped that these economic interventions will empower disadvantaged women to become self-sufficient and improve their living conditions.

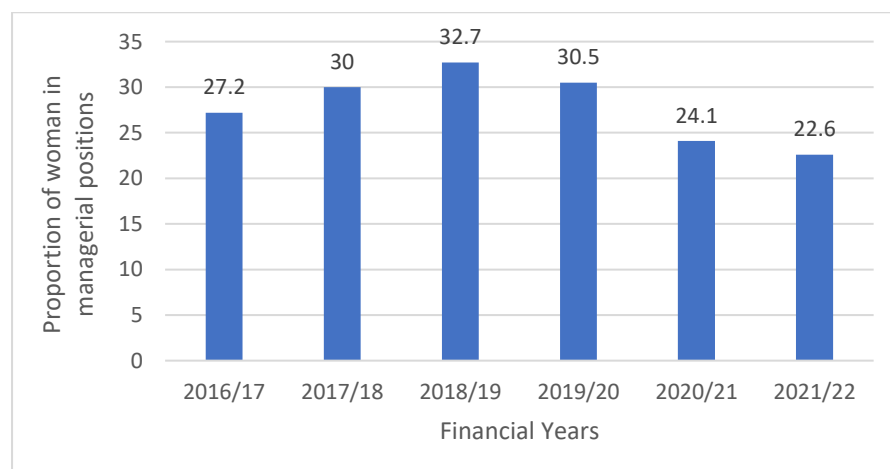
The graphs presented below for SDG 5 depict progress on selected indicators.

Target: 5.5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.

Indicator: 5.5.2. Proportion of women in managerial positions.

The following graph provides the annual statistics of the proportion of women in managerial positions.

Graph 1: Woman in managerial positions



Source: Statistics South Africa (2022)

Based on the main occupation category, "Legislators, senior officials and managers", statistics point towards an overall decline in the proportion of women in managerial positions from 2016/17 to 2021/22. Satisfactory progress was being made over the 3 years to 2018/19, but there has since been an annual decline in the proportion within the city.

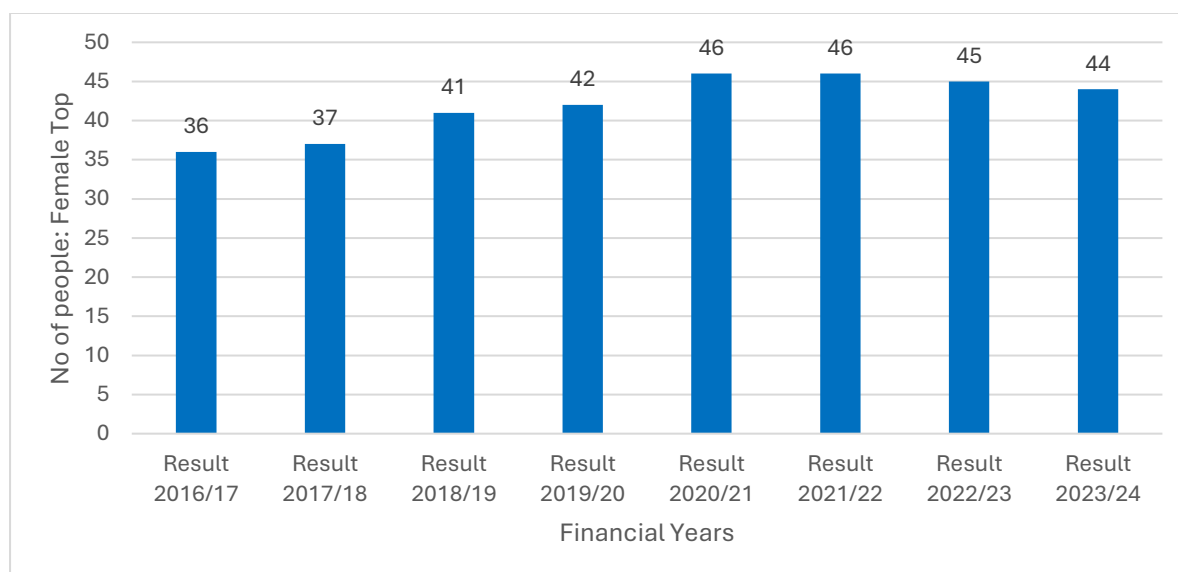
EMM tracks the number of women employed in the three top levels of management within the employ of the municipality as part of tracking employment in line with employment equity target groups. While the overall proportion of women in managerial positions within the municipality has declined, the trend of women in senior positions employed by the municipality has shown an improvement over the 8 years from 2016/17 to 2023/2024.

The graphs below show the annual employment statistics for women in the municipality.

Target: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Indicator: 5.1.1.N1. The number of people from employment equity target groups employed in the three highest levels of management in compliance with a municipality's approved employment equity plan: FEMALE TOP

Graph 2: EE Plan Female TOP

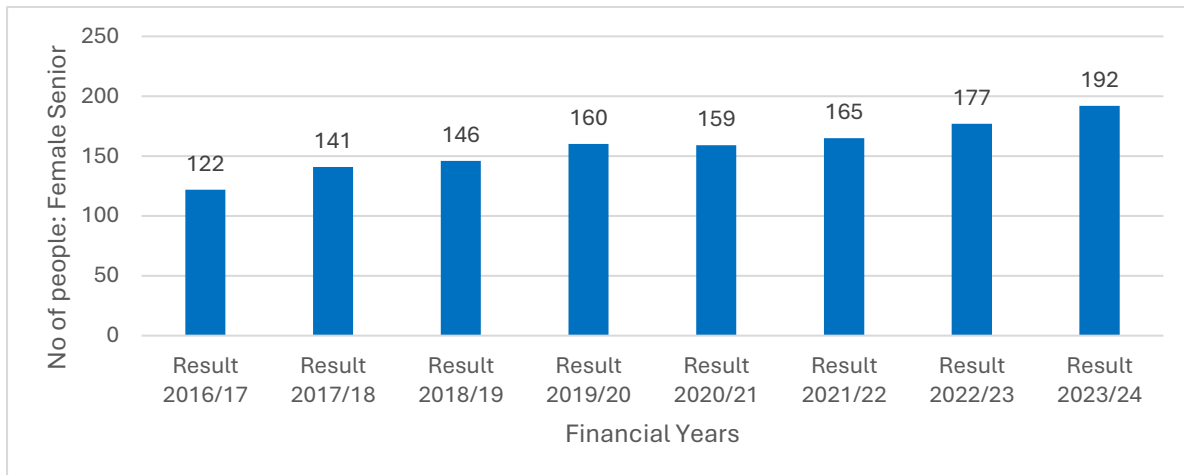


Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2023/2024)

Target: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Indicator: 5.1.1.N2. The number of people from employment equity target groups employed in the three highest levels of management in compliance with a municipality's approved employment equity plan: FEMALE SENIOR

Graph 3: EE Plan Female Senior

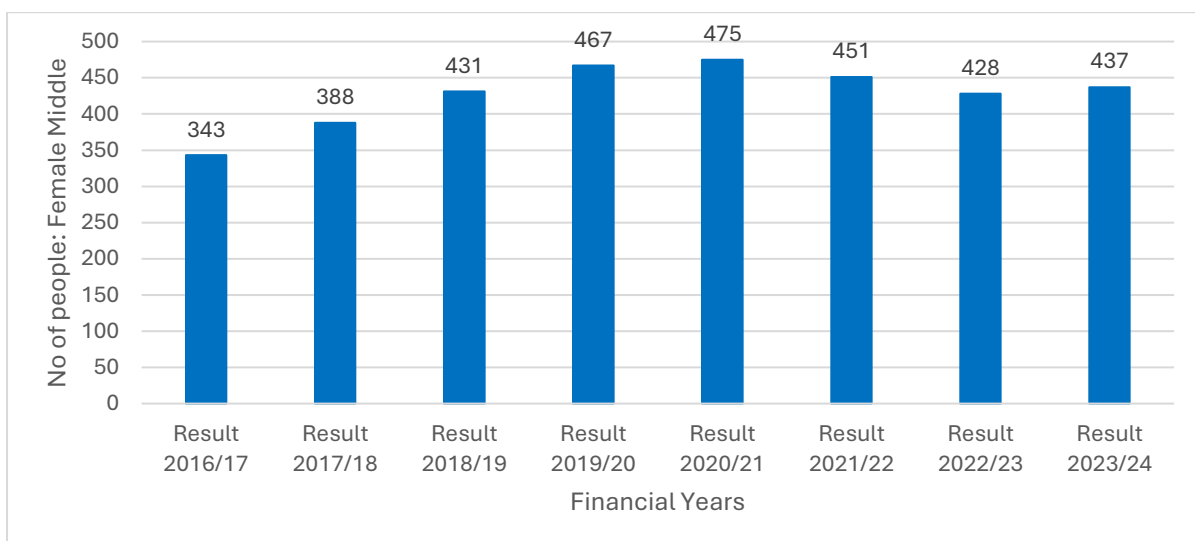


Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2023/2024)

Target: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Indicator: 5.1.1.N3. The number of people from employment equity target groups employed in the three highest levels of management in compliance with a municipality's approved employment equity plan: FEMALE MIDDLE

Graph 4: EE Plan Female Middle



Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2023/2024)

As depicted in the graphs, EMM has implemented measures to increase the employment of women in the top three levels of management within the municipality. Women are one of the target groups in the Employment Equity Plan, and training/ skills development programmes also provide opportunities for women.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

EMM is a Water Service Authority that purchases water in bulk from the state-owned entity, Umgeni Water, and distributes it to households within the municipality.

When assessing water and sanitation delivery to households, it is important to consider the context. In the reports, the total number of households and total number of indigent households in the municipality are used as the basis for calculations. Migration into the municipality in recent years has resulted in a substantial increase in both total households and total indigent households (Stats SA General Household Survey 2019 – 2022), however, annual delivery remained steady or declined due to financial constraints. The household and indigent household counts were not updated annually between 2016/17 and 2018/19, which led to the apparent steady increase in delivery. Once the figures were subject to an annual update from 2019/20 onward, the annual percentages cannot be used to reflect a trend unless compared with the household count and indigent household count for those respective years.

However, when the number of households and indigent households is analysed, we observe annual delivery of new connections, indicating progress is being made on the following indicators:

- 6.1.1.L1. The percentage of households with access to AT LEAST a basic level of Water
- 6.1.1.N1. The percentage of estimated indigent households with access to a free basic service: Water.
- 6.2.1D.N1. The percentage of households with access to AT LEAST a basic level of Sanitation
- 6.2.1D.N2. The percentage of estimated indigent households provided with free basic services: Sanitation.
- 6.2.1A.N1. Percentage of population with inadequate access to sanitation (Backlog)

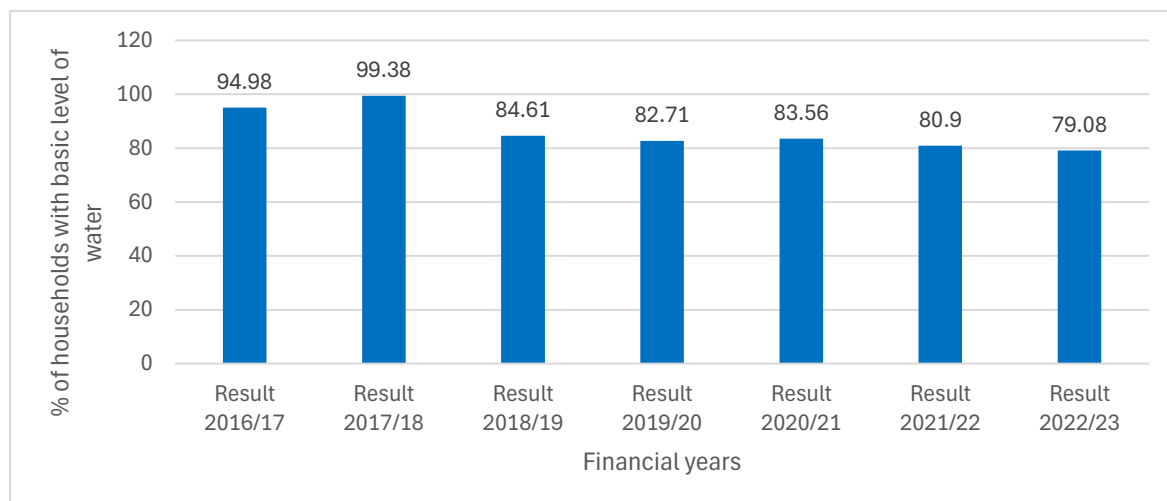


Below are the detailed results for selected indicators in SDG 6.

Target: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Indicator: 6.1.1.L1. The percentage of households with access to AT LEAST a basic level of Water.

Graph 5: Basic level of Water

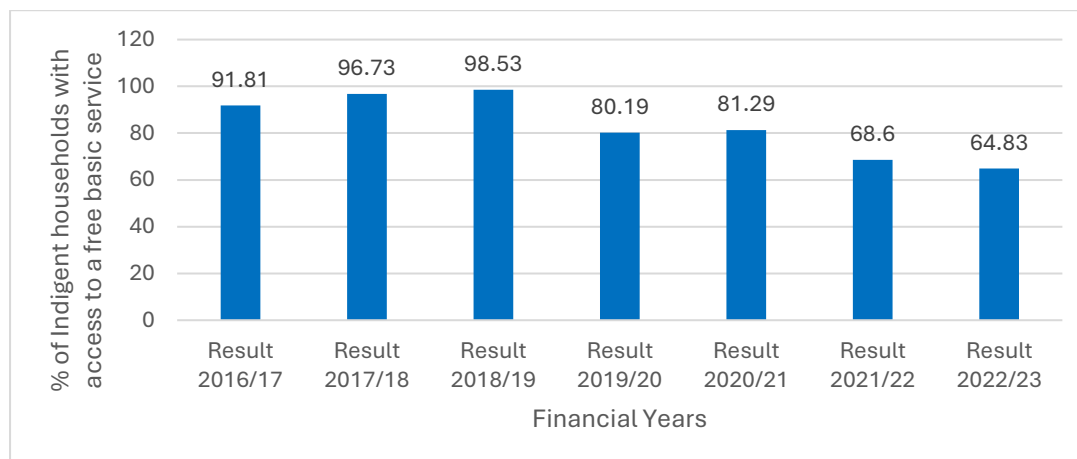


Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2022/2023)

Target: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Indicator: 6.1.1.N1. The percentage of estimated indigent households with access to a free basic service: Water.

Graph 6: Free Basic Services: Water

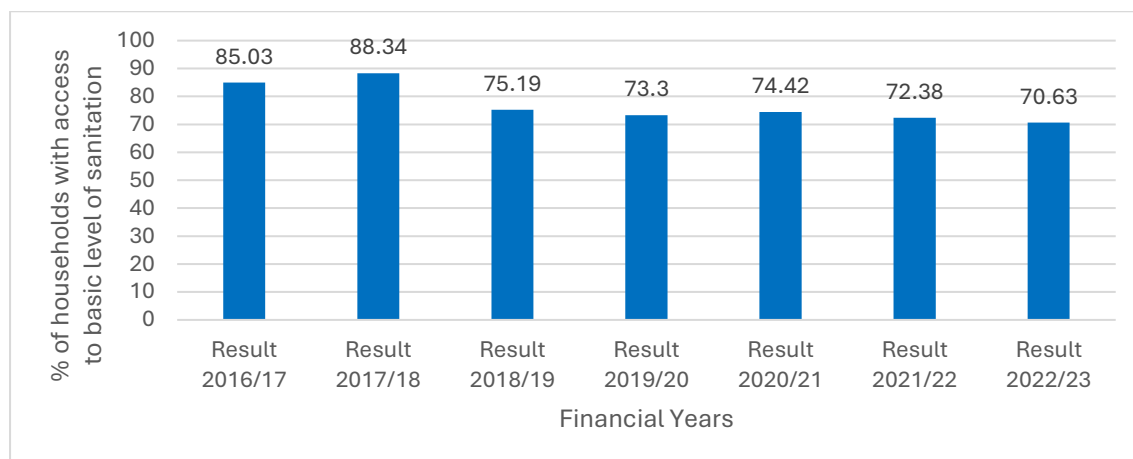


Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2022/2023)

Target: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all; and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 6.2.1D.N1. The percentage of households with access to AT LEAST a basic level of Sanitation.

Graph 7: Basic Level of Sanitation

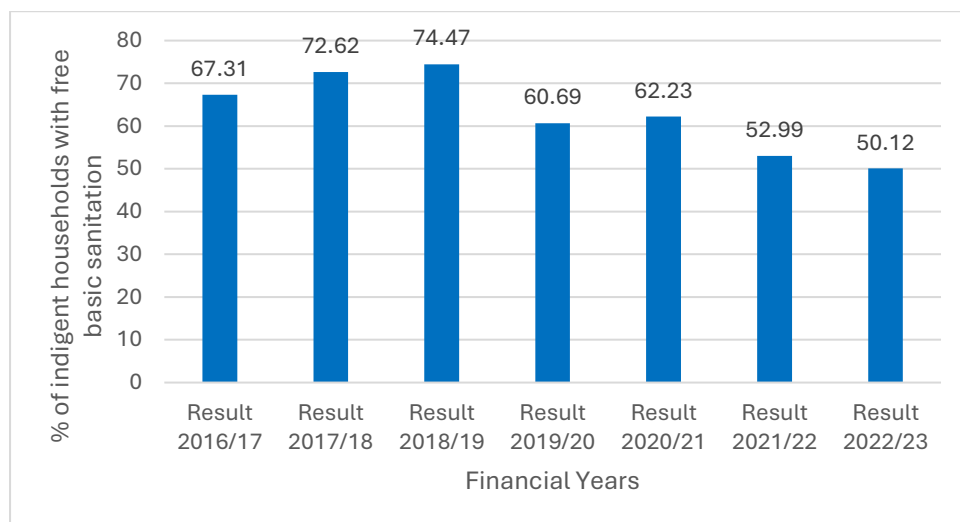


Source: eThekwini Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2022/2023)

Target: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all; and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 6.2.1D.N2. The percentage of estimated indigent households provided with free basic services: Sanitation.

Graph 8: Free Basic Services: Sanitation

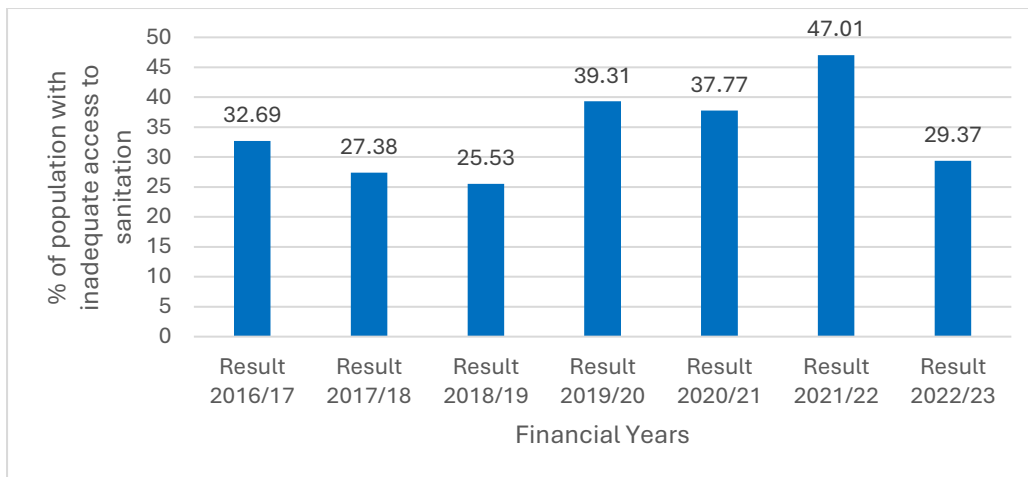


Source: eThekwini Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2022/2023)

Target: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all; and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 6.2.1A.N1. Percentage of population with inadequate access to sanitation (backlog)

Graph 9: Inadequate Access to Sanitation



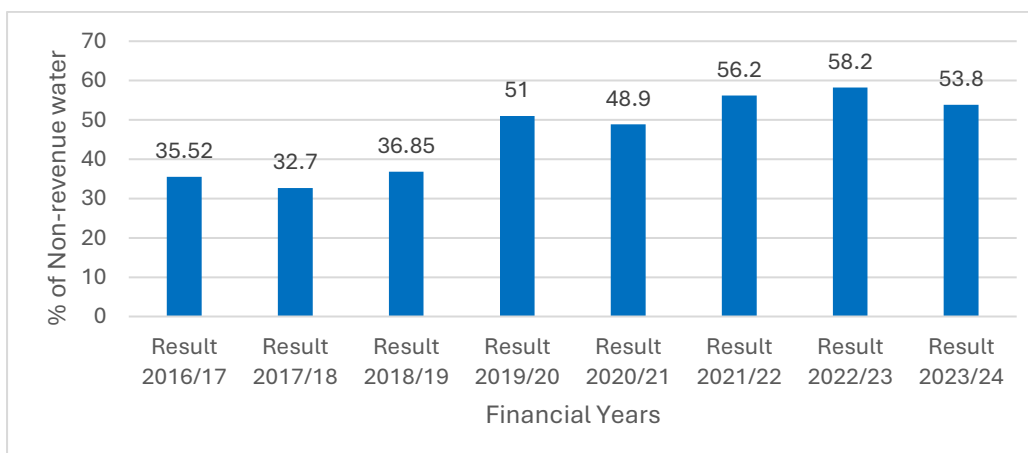
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2022/2023)

To assist indigent households, EMM provides six kilolitres of free potable water. However, the cost of infrastructure for water and sanitation provision, and the hilly terrain within the municipality, remains a hurdle. This hinders service provision, while backlogs increase regularly due to migration into the municipality. A turnaround strategy has been approved and is being implemented to deal with these challenges.

Target: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors; ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

Indicator: 6.4.1.N2. Percentage of non-revenue water

Graph 10: Non-Revenue Water



Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2023/2024)

Water losses remain a challenge within the EMM for a multitude of reasons including aging infrastructure and illegal connections.

There has been a substantial increase in non-revenue water over the 8-year reporting period. Measures are being implemented to reduce the figure, but natural disasters over the past 5 years have hindered those efforts. The resulting damage to critical infrastructure has further increased leaks and burst pipes, exacerbating the situation.

Umgeni Water, the Water Institute of South Africa (WISA), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), UN-Habitat, the World Bank and Hamburg Wasser (Germany) are providing technical and financial support to identify solutions to the water loss challenge. At the municipal level, Council has approved a turnaround strategy to address challenges related to water and sanitation infrastructure, including water loss. EMM has entered an MOU with the University of KwaZulu-Natal to support research into innovations that can improve water and sanitation service delivery.

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

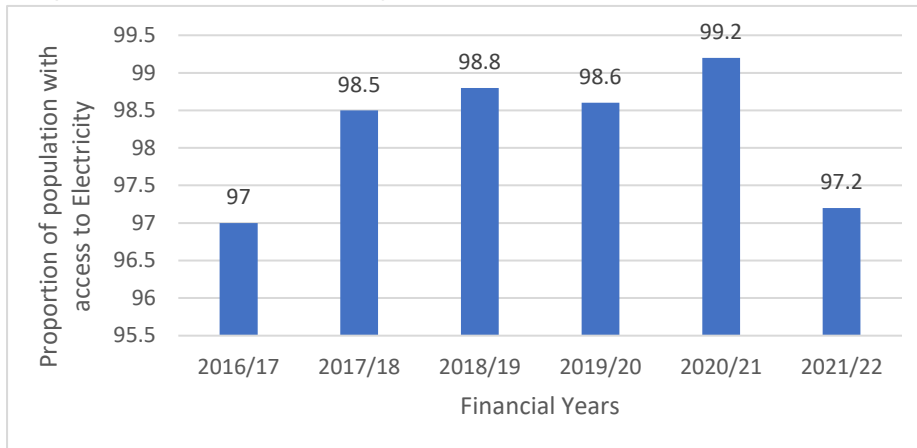
ESKOM is the state-owned entity that is responsible for generating electricity for the country. EMM purchases bulk electricity from ESKOM for redistribution to households via the municipal electricity network, using conventional or prepaid electricity meters. With the challenge of load shedding, alternative sources of electricity must be identified.

EMM is involved in groundbreaking work in the renewable and alternative energy space such as the hydrogen economy. Efforts are also underway to explore models for buying back energy from small-scale producers. A prominent wholesaler is already feeding excess energy generated by their solar panel installation into the municipal grid. Other businesses are following suite with the installation of solar panels to meet their electricity requirements. Given the context of load shedding in South Africa, it raises the question of whether the solar installations are for reducing reliance on ESKOM or for generating clean energy. However, it remains a positive indication that big business is playing their part in achieving the SDGs. As a prioritised SDG, data sourced to date is presented below.

Target: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services

Indicator: 7.1.1. Proportion of population with access to electricity

Graph 11: Access to Electricity



Source: Statistics South Africa general household survey (2016/2017-2021/2022)

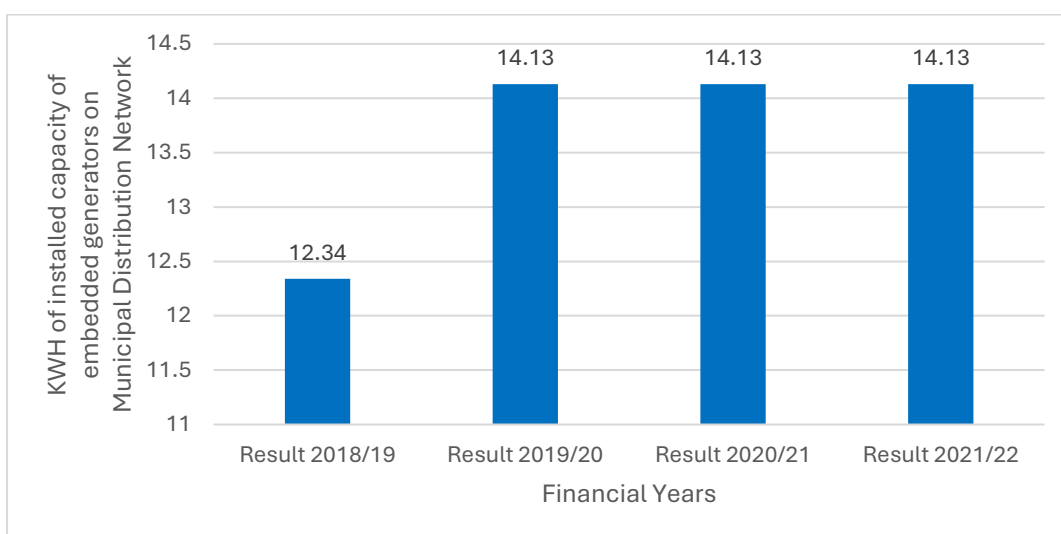
As with the statistics for the percentage of households with access to water, the result is affected by the number of households. Annual updates to the total number of households commenced in 2019/20, and with increasing migration into the city increasing the number of households, the proportion of households with access to electricity became irregular. This is also affected by the annual number of new electricity connections.

The graph below tracks the installed capacity of embedded generators on the Municipal Distribution Network. Measurement of this indicator commenced in the 2018/19 fiscal year and, as indicated by the statistics, there has been an increase in the capacity.

Target: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Indicator: 7.2.1N1. Installed capacity of embedded generators on the Municipal Distribution network.

Graph 12: Generators on Municipal Distribution Network



Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2018/2019-2021/2022)

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all

Unemployment within South Africa has reached a record high of 32% as of the fourth quarter of 2023. Despite extensive efforts to create job opportunities nationwide and within eThekweni Municipality, the unemployment rate remains high.

The Economic Development Unit has updated its Economic Development Strategy themed as “Sakha iTheku – Shape Durban”. The strategy was adopted by the eThekweni Council in 2022. The Strategy is guided by the following Strategic Focus Areas (SFAs):

- A compact, productive, and liveable city that connects citizens with economic opportunities.
- A re-industrialized economy through localisation and investment in targeted industries
- Government that is capable, customer-centric, enabling, efficient and integrated
- An inclusive and shared economy
- A vibrant tourism destination that celebrates its cultural and creative endowments

The table below indicates some of the initiatives being undertaken by the Economic Development Unit to improve economic growth and provide resources for economic decision making.

Initiatives	Aligned SDGs	Partners/Stakeholders
Innovate Durban Programme – A partnership with the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE) to train and mentor digital analyst graduate interns. This encompasses new and ambitious initiatives, including a Schools Innovation Programme and the Centre for Public Sector Innovation, both of which demonstrate further commitment to fostering a culture of innovation at all levels of society and governance.	SDG 4 – Quality Education Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long opportunities for all.	Innovate Durban MILE Economic Development
Innovation Hub Projects – A benchmark for municipal innovation. It allows for incubation of new ideas,	SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Innovate Durban Economic Development

creating opportunities for the municipality to create novel solutions to its complex challenges.	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.	
The City's Spatial Economic Learning Events - With the objective of embedding spatial economic data understanding within the municipality's modus operandi.	SDG 4 – Quality Education Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long opportunities for all.	MILE STRAT HUB Economic Development
The Spatial Economic Database – Improving data accessibility by providing granular insights into economic activities across different wards.	SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	Economic Development
Incentives Policy Implementation – Promotion of urban regeneration through bespoke incentives providing property rates rebates.	SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Economic Development
Sub-National Doing Business (SNDB) – Aimed at red tape reduction, ease of doing business in the city and the integration of IT systems to facilitate automation and digitisation of municipal platforms.	SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	National Treasury City Support Programme Economic Development Durban Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Industrial Revitalization Programme – Focusing on transforming the South Durban Basin using the Jacobs area	SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	National Treasury City Support Programme Economic Development

as a pilot. The revitalization will implement an innovative Eco-Industrial Park model which aims to improve the built environment and support the industrial sector.	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation. SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production. Ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns	
Capital Projects - This focuses on the stimulation of the local economy to encourage economic growth and job creation. This entails the revitalization of priority nodes and corridors in identified areas. These include the revitalization of town centres, the targeting of priority nodes and corridors within historically disadvantaged areas (rural and urban), the revitalization of tourism, rural nodes and corridors and the regeneration of industrial nodes.	SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	National Treasury
Industry Development Programme - This programme facilitates the stimulation and growth of priority sectors, by providing city-wide support to targeted economic sectors in line with the National Industrial Development Policy Framework, the City's IDP as well as the Sakha iTheku Shape-Durban Economic Strategy. The programme	SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Durban Chamber of Commerce & Industry Invest Durban Policy, Strategy, Innovation & Research Department Department of Trade & Industry

is driven by several Industry Clusters, Sector Development Initiatives, Incubators, Business Accelerators; and programmes to support localisation, export development and promotion, business retention and expansion coupled with industrial revitalization.		
Urban Renewal - This relates to beachfront management through liaising with the relevant departments for planning and implementing various interventions to ensure that events at the beachfront are co-ordinated efficiently.	SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Metro Police eThekweni Traffic Authority Other service Units in the City
Investment Promotion, facilitation and aftercare - This is a 4-part mandate, namely investment promotion and marketing; foreign investment identification, attraction, and facilitation; foreign direct investment aftercare and expansion, and investment advocacy	SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Department of Trade & Industry Durban Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Catalytic Projects - The role of catalytic projects is to facilitate land development projects in the city's priority nodes as defined in the IDP and the Spatial Development Framework. This also ensures the effective and efficient management of catalytic land development projects through proper project pipelining based on market demand.	SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Department of Trade & Industry National Treasury Durban Chamber of Commerce & Industry

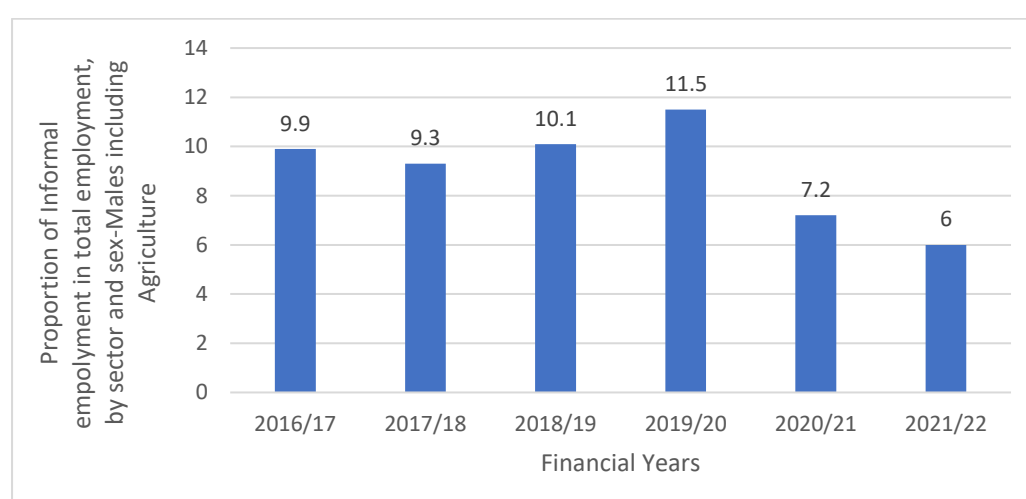
Support of small businesses, informal trade, agri-business and tourism development - This relates to the facilitation of industry skills and economic inclusion, managing the informal economy and socio-economic development through the creation of sustainable jobs withing various sectors such as agri-business and enterprise development such as provision of support to businesses in the tourism sector.	SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Durban Chamber of Commerce & Industry Department of Trade & Industry
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Where data is available, the graphs below present the results for selected SDG 8 indicators.

Target: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation; and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

Indicator: 8.3.1. Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex- Males in the formal sector including agriculture.

Graph 13: Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex - Males in the formal sector including agriculture.



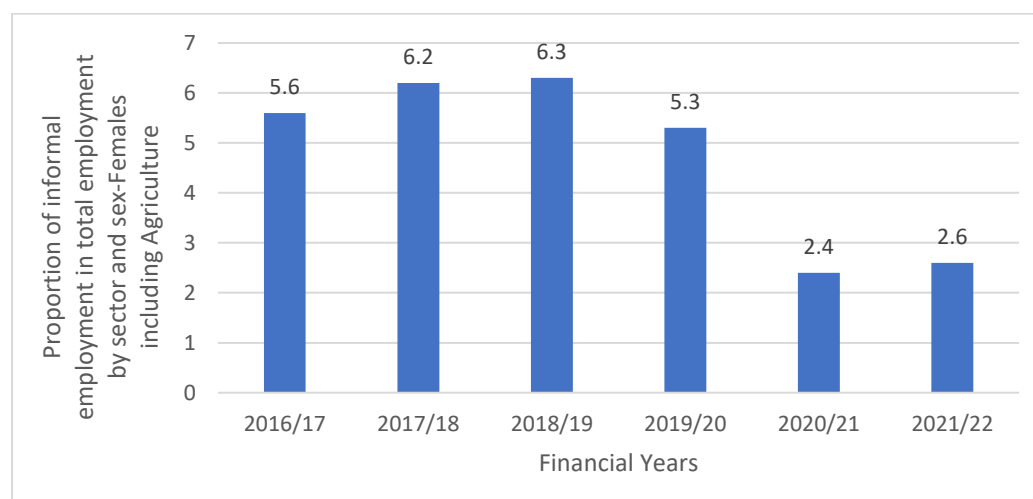
Source: Labour market Dynamics (2016-2022)

Target: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation; and encourage the formalisation and

growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

Indicator: 8.3.1. Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex- Females in the formal sector including agriculture

Graph 14: Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex - Females in the formal sector including agriculture.



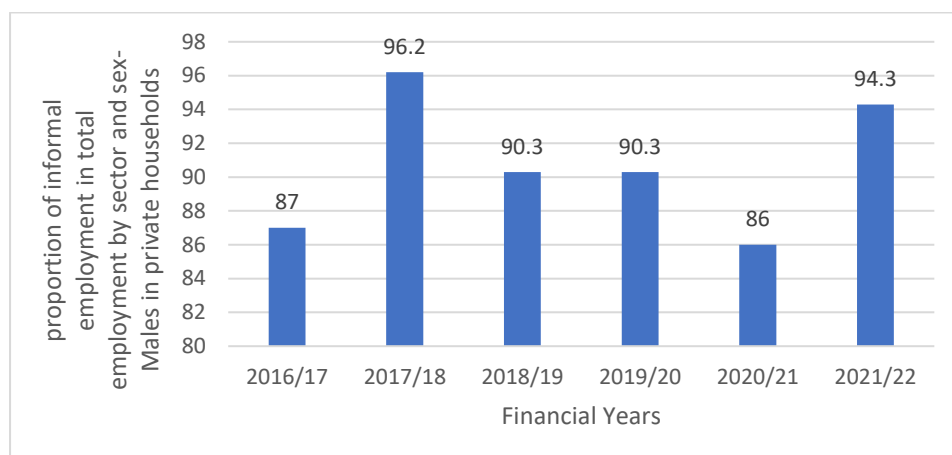
Source: Labour Market Dynamics (2016-2022)

The proportion of informal employment in total employment for both males and females in the formal sector, including agriculture show similar trends. There has been a significant decrease in 2020/21 and 2021/22 compared to pre-COVID-19. This drop is likely due to the detrimental impact of the pandemic, which resulted in a significant loss of jobs worldwide. Within the informal sector, the proportion is 100 percent for both males and females.

Target: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation; and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

Indicator: 8.3.1. Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex- Males in private households

Graph 15: Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex - Males in private households



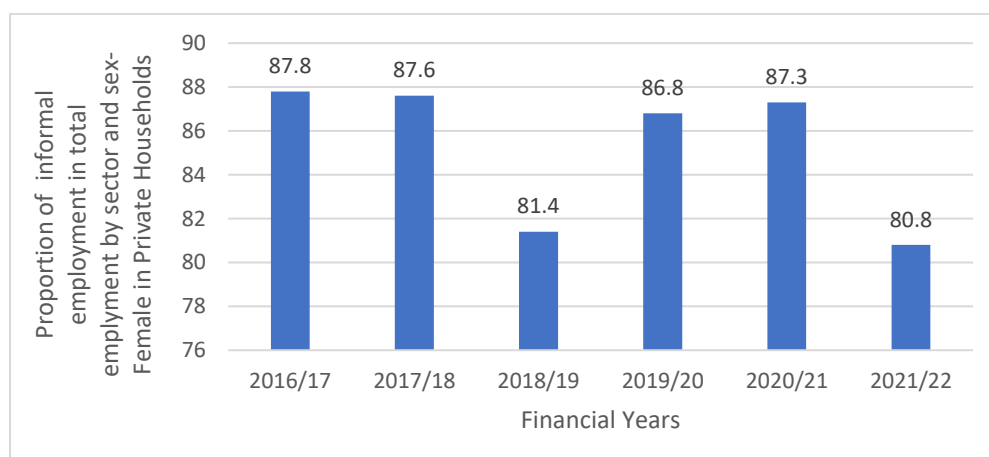
Source: Labour market Dynamics (2016 - 2022)

The proportion of informal employment in total employment for males in private households is at its second highest in the 6-year reporting period, with a notable increase from 2020/21 to 2021/22. Per graph sixteen, for females in the same category, the proportion for 2021/22 has reduced significantly to its lowest proportion in the 6-year reporting period.

Target: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation; and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

Indicator: 8.3.1. Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex- Females in private households

Graph 16: Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex - Females in Private households.



Source: Labour market Dynamics (2016 - 2022)

Target: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

Indicator: 8.5.1D. Median monthly earnings (in Rands) of female and male employees by occupation

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Legislators; senior officials and managers	Male	9,800	19,000	18,000	17,000	14,500	15,000
	Female	12,900	16,000	20,000	24,000	10,000	15,000
Professionals	Male	14,000	18,000	22,300	25,000	25,000	15,413
	Female	13,000	19,000	25,000	24,603	21,875	21,000
Technical and associate professionals	Male	6,500	9,200	8,000	4,500	7,000	7,104
	Female	6,000	6,000	8,000	5,000	10,000	10,000
Clerks	Male	5,700	6,000	4,500	4,500	5,000	6,500
	Female	3,500	5,400	4,500	5,000	4,500	5,800
Service workers, and shop and market sales workers	Male	3,900	3,800	4,000	4,000	4,800	4,500
	Female	2,500	3,000	3,500	4,000	4,300	3,500
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	Male	3,500	3,500	2,800	3,033	3,033	3,250
	Female	1,083	N/A	N/A	14,000	N/A	1,733
Craft and related trades workers	Male	3,033	3,726	4,000	3,900	5,000	5,000
	Female	3,000	3,660	3,800	2,816	3,500	3,900
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	Male	4,000	4,333	4,333	4,900	5,546	5,200
	Female	3,033	3,500	3,033	3,033	3,900	3,900
Elementary Occupation	Male	2,500	3,000	3,033	3,000	2,700	3,328
	Female	2,600	2,800	3,500	3,000	2,600	3,000
Domestic workers	Male	1,600	2,500	1,000	2,000	2,200	2,340

	Female	1,500	1,700	2,000	2,000	2,500	2,166
Other	Male	N/A	8,000	N/A	N/A	6,000	5,000
	Female	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,000	3,500

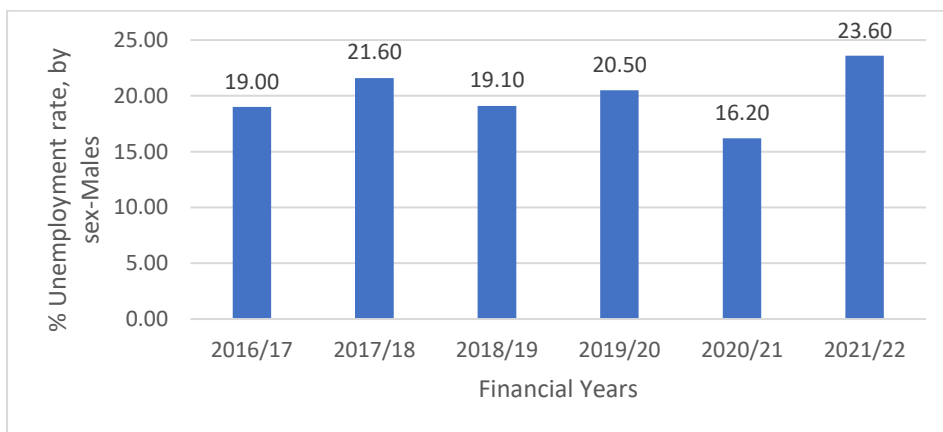
Source: Labour market Dynamics (2016-2022)

The Median Monthly earning for various occupations in eThekweni Municipality is reflected above.

Target: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

Indicator: 8.5.2.L1. Unemployment rate by sex - Males

Graph 17: Male Unemployment Rate

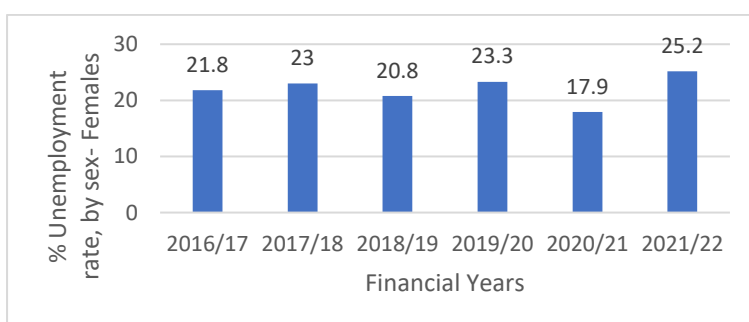


Source: Labour Market Dynamics (2016-2022)

Target: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

Indicator: 8.5.2.L1. Unemployment rate, by sex - Females

Graph 18: Female unemployment rate

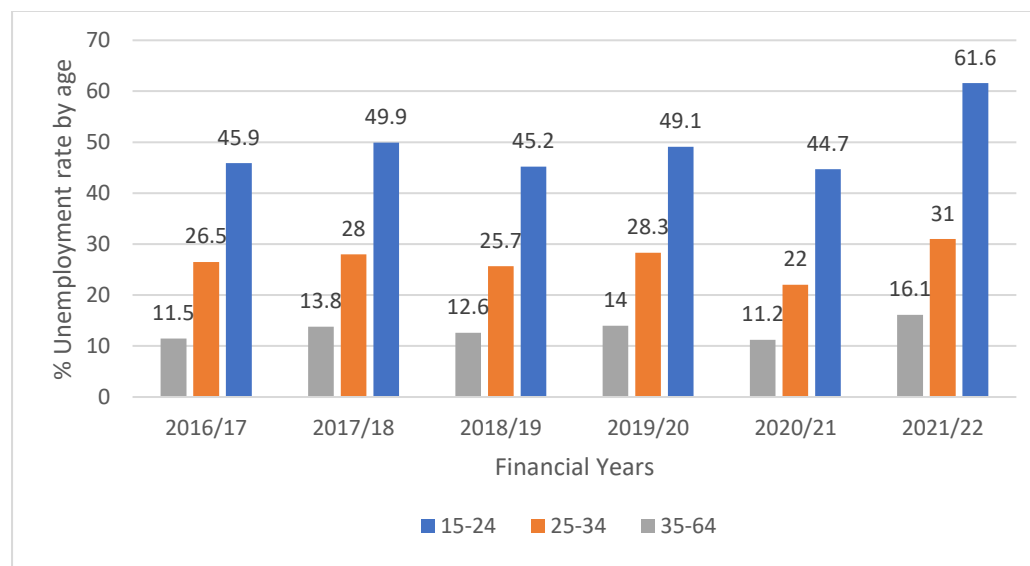


Source: Labour Market Dynamics (2016-2022)

Target: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

Indicator: 8.5.2.L2. Unemployment rate by age.

Graph 19: Unemployment Rate by Age

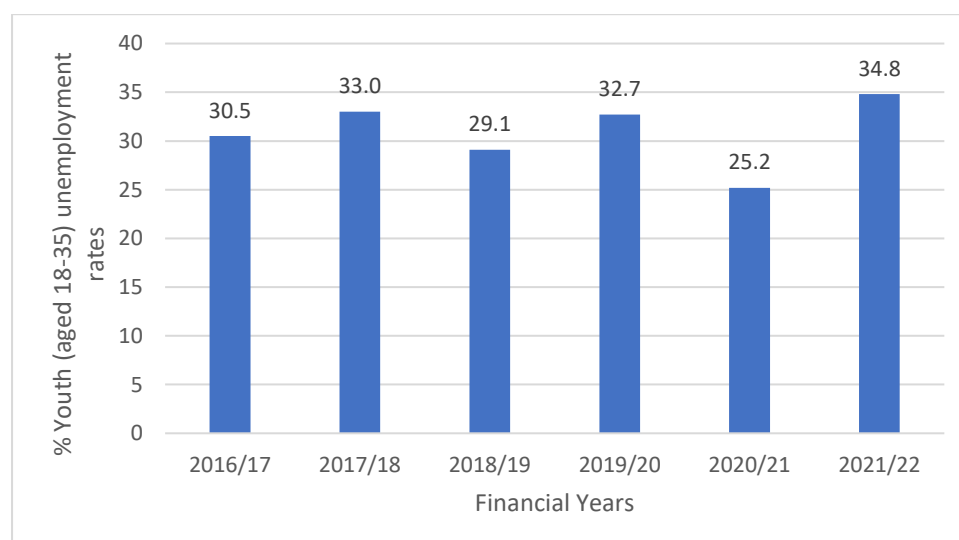


Source: Labour market Dynamics (2016-2022)

Target: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

Indicator: 8.5.2A.L1. Youth (aged 18–35 years) unemployment rate

Graph 20: Youth Unemployment Rate



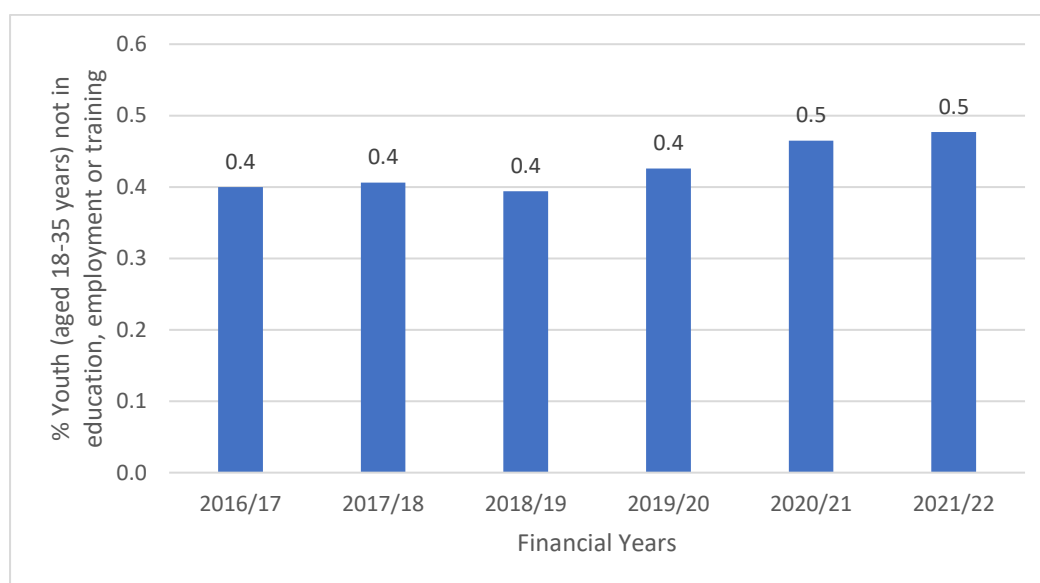
Source: Labour Market Dynamics (2016-2022)

Graphs 17 to 20 depict similar trends in the unemployment rate across all categories. There appears to have been a decrease in 2020/21 and a substantial increase in 2021/22 in all categories, likely due to the recovery after Covid-19.

Target: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training.

Indicator: 8.6.1.L1. Proportion of youth (aged 18–35 years) not in education, employment, or training

Graph 21: Proportion of Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training

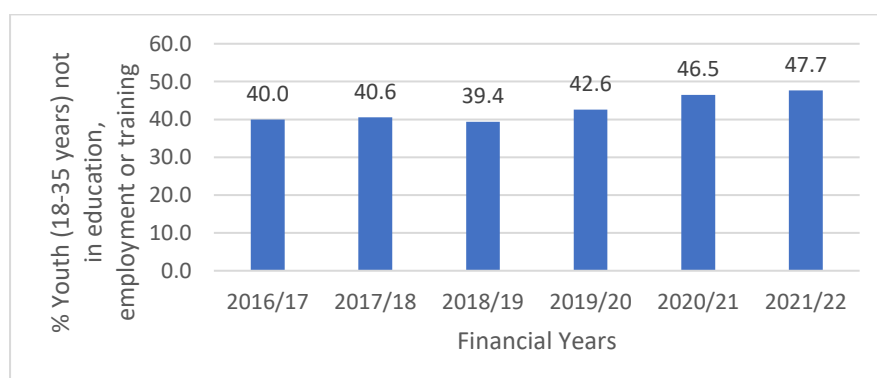


Source: Labour market Dynamics (2016-2022)

Target: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training

Indicator: 8.6.1A.L1. Percentage of youth (18–35 years) not in education, employment, or training

Graph 22: Percentage of Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training



Source: Labour market Dynamics (2016-2022)

Graphs 21 and 22 show that almost half the population of youth in eThekweni are neither in education, employment, or training. This number has steadily increased over the 6-year reporting period.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest in 2022, an economic recovery strategy was approved and implemented. Although the recovery has been slow, there has been encouraging support from businesses within the city, and collective measures are being implemented to promote further economic growth. Additionally, EMM has established various “hubs” that act as incubation facilities for start-ups and skills development in specific sectors. These hubs helped to produce skilled artisans and facilitate business and employment opportunities for several city residents, thereby positively contributing towards SDG8.

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The significance of SDG 9 is evident now more than ever in EMM. The vulnerability of city infrastructure and the consequent impact of damage to and loss of infrastructure became apparent with the catastrophic flooding in April 2022. There was extensive damage to water and sanitation infrastructure, roads, and the electricity network within the city. As a result, services could not be provided for an extended period and most infrastructure is still in the process of being repaired and rebuilt. Additionally, critical infrastructure that supports major companies was damaged, resulting in financial losses for the companies and for the city. As the repair and rebuilding process continues, there is an increasing recognition of the need for more innovative approaches to building infrastructure and the critical requirement to consider their sustainability. Current initiatives being implemented include a World Bank-supported project to assess the vulnerability of city infrastructure in the event of natural disasters and developing plans to mitigate the related risks, in order to enhance urban resilience. One of the tools developed by CSIR, the Greenbook Metroview, allows for the spatial visualisation of ward-based vulnerability, providing valuable input for the assessment and future planning. This innovative approach to planning, in general and for infrastructure in particular, demonstrates the EMM’s commitment to changing the way the city operates and makes decisions. With the support of key businesses operating in the city and other stakeholders, it is hoped that these projects will drive a rapid change in the planning, design, and construction process for city infrastructure.

However, data is currently unavailable to report progress on this SDG, and many indicators cannot be reported on by the municipality.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Most indicators in SDG 10 cannot be reported at a municipal level, and data for remaining indicators is unavailable. However, it is important to note that several initiatives mentioned in this VLR contribute to reducing inequalities among the city's residents. There is constant consideration of this need when projects are implemented. It is also encouraging that international assistance has increased, with most donors and partners seeking opportunities to reduce inequalities.

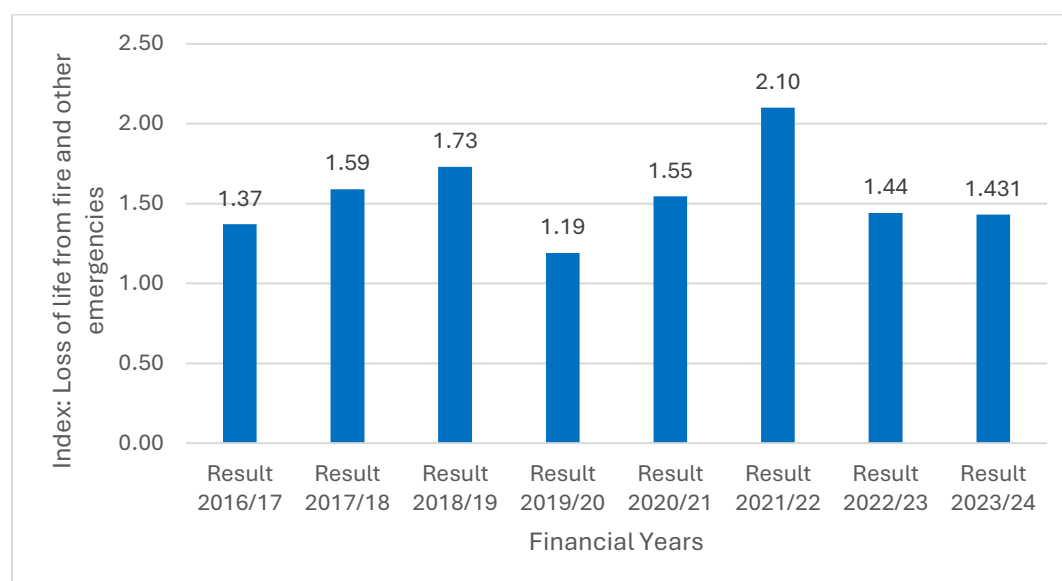
SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

EThekweni Municipality has made significant strides in infrastructure development, particularly in expanding access to adequate housing, water, sanitation, and electricity services. The municipality has improved living conditions for many residents through initiatives like the Informal Settlements Upgrading Programme, promoting inclusivity and resilience. Data is available to track progress on selected indicators as detailed below.

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N1. Loss of life from fire and other emergencies per 100000 population served - calculated as an index.

Graph 23: Loss of Life from Emergencies



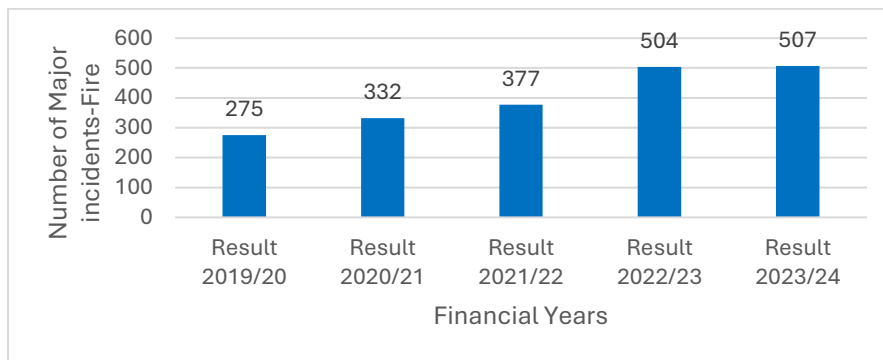
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2023/2024)

The trend for this indicator shows that there has been an overall increase in the loss of life due to fire and other emergencies from 2016/17 to 2023/24. This is not surprising considering the natural disasters experienced in this period. The trend is supported by the results shown in Graph 24 which tracked the number of fires from 2019/20 to 2023/24. The figures point to a significant increase over the 3-year period, coinciding with some of the most catastrophic disasters experienced by EMM to date.

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N2. Number of major incidents – fire

Graph 24: Number of Fires

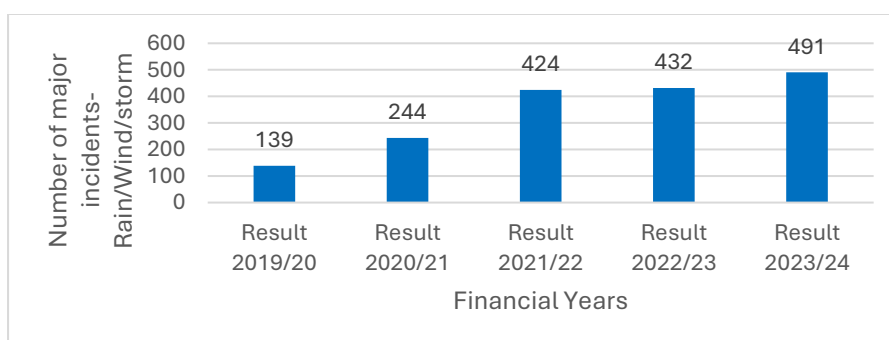


Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2019/20-2023/2024)

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N3. Number of major incidents - rain/ wind/ storm

Graph 25: Number of Major Incidents – Rain/Wind/Storm



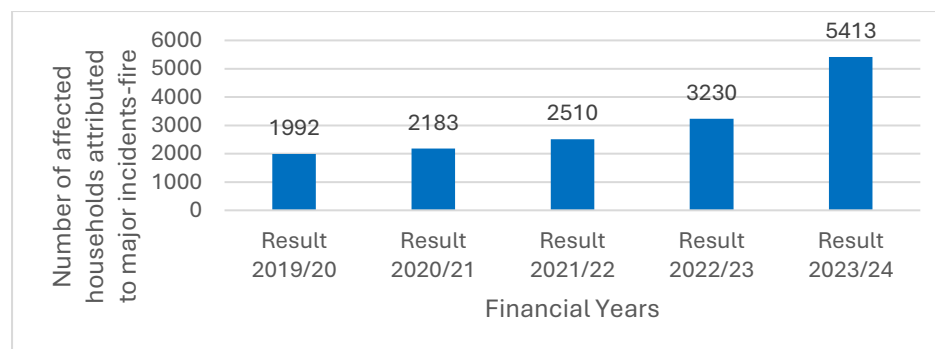
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2019/2020-2023/2024)

Graph 25 reflects a clear trend indicating an increase in the number of fire incidents over the 3-year period for which results were tracked. The number of incidents in 2023/24 was more than three times higher than in 2019/20, highlighting the impact of climate change on local weather patterns. As a result, disaster management plans are being reviewed to ensure preparedness for future disasters.

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N4. Number of affected households attributed to major incidents – fire

Graph 26: Households Affected by Fire



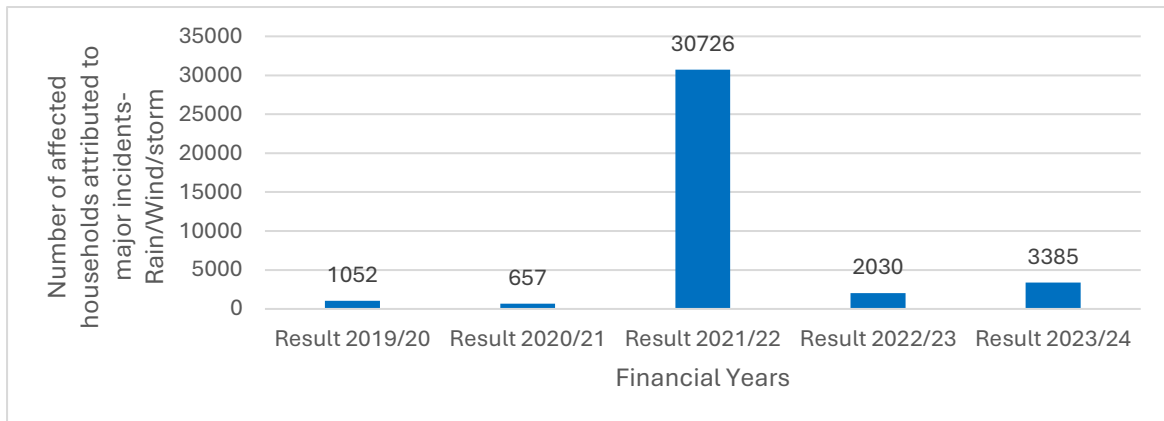
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2019/2020-2023/2024)

As with number of incidents of fire, the number of households affected by fire has increased over the 5-year period for which statistics are available. This points to a direct correlation between the two indicators.

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N5. Number of affected households attributed to major incidents - rain/ wind/ storm

Graph 27: Households Affected by Rain/Wind/Storms



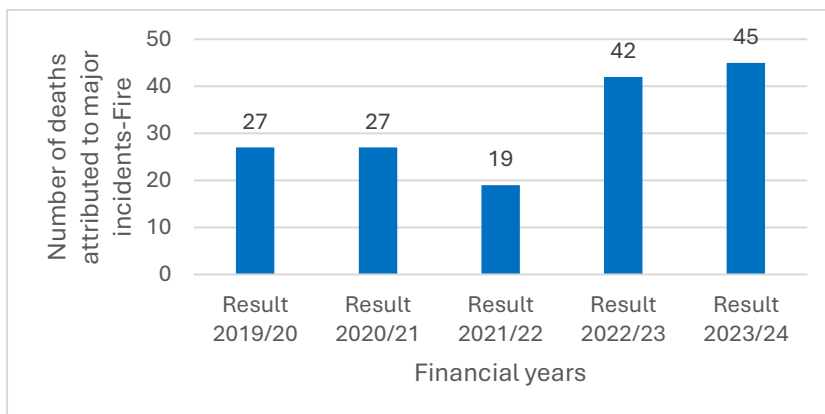
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2019/2020-2023/2024)

The comparison above yields interesting results as there is a drastic spike in the number of households affected in the 2021/22 fiscal year. The devastating floods of April 2022 resulted in a considerable number of households being affected. The severity of these floods is significant when comparing the statistics over the 5 years.

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N6. Number of deaths attributed to major incidents – fire

Graph 28: Deaths due to fire



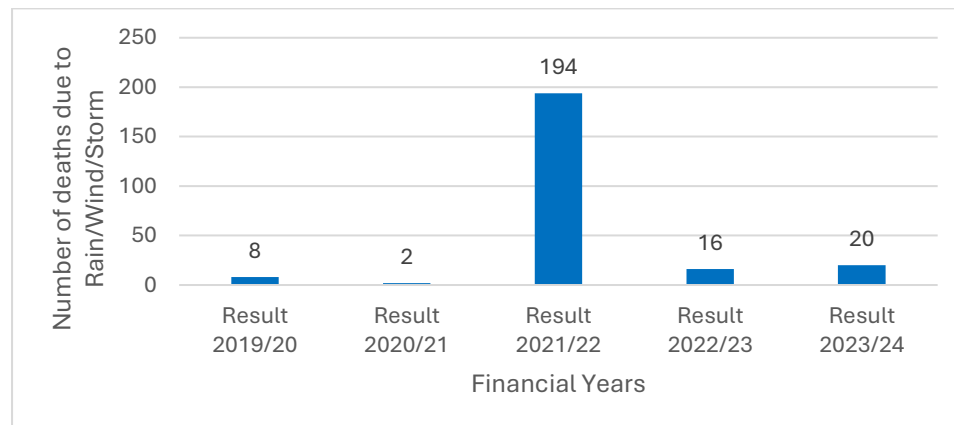
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2019/2020-2023/2024)

Graph 28 points to an increase in the number of deaths due to fire. Several initiatives are being implemented to decrease the loss of life, such as awareness campaigns and regular fire safety inspections. It is hoped that these interventions are successful.

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N7. Number of deaths attributed to major incidents - rain/ wind/ storm

Graph 29: Deaths due to Rain/Wind/Storm



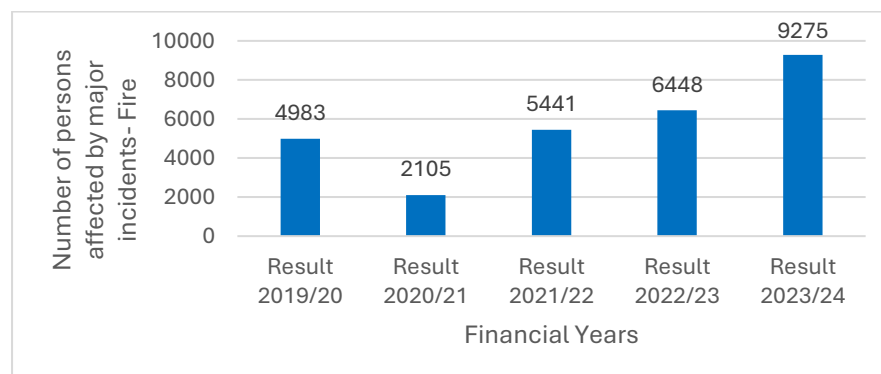
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2019/2020-2023/2024)

Once again, the devastating impact of the April 2022 flood is clearly illustrated by the significant increase in the number of lives lost in the 2021/22 year. There has been a subsequent reduction, but the overall number of deaths has increased in the 5-year period.

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N8. Number of persons affected by major incidents – fire

Graph 30: Persons Affected by Fire



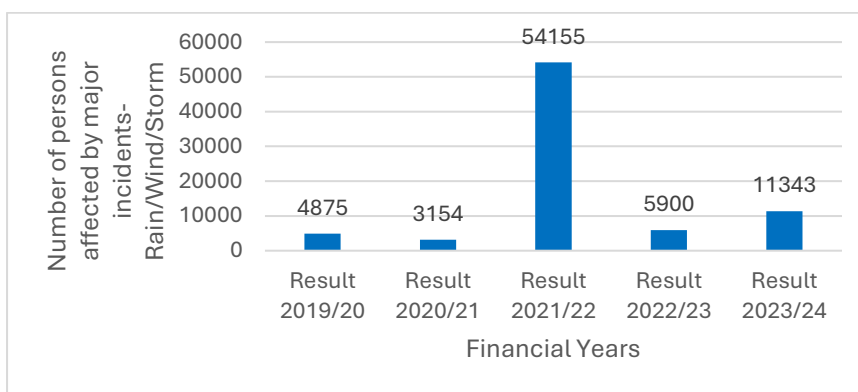
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2019/2020-2023/2024)

Graph 30 is paired with graph 26 for this report. It shows that as the number of affected households increases, so does the number of affected people, which is consistent with the findings in Graph 31.

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N9. Number of persons affected by major incidents - rain/ wind/ storm

Graph 31: Persons affected by Rain/Wind/Storm



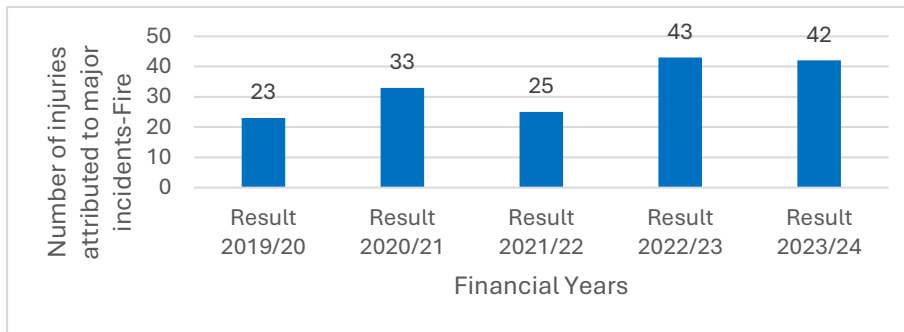
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2019/2020-2023/2024)

Per the statistics, the number of persons affected by rain, wind or storms has increased over the 5-year period of reporting. This is commensurate with the increase in the number of incidents, number of households affected by incidents and the number of deaths resulting from incidents.

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N10. Number of injuries attributed to major incidents – Fire.

Graph 32: Number of Injuries: Fire



Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2019/2020-2023/2024)

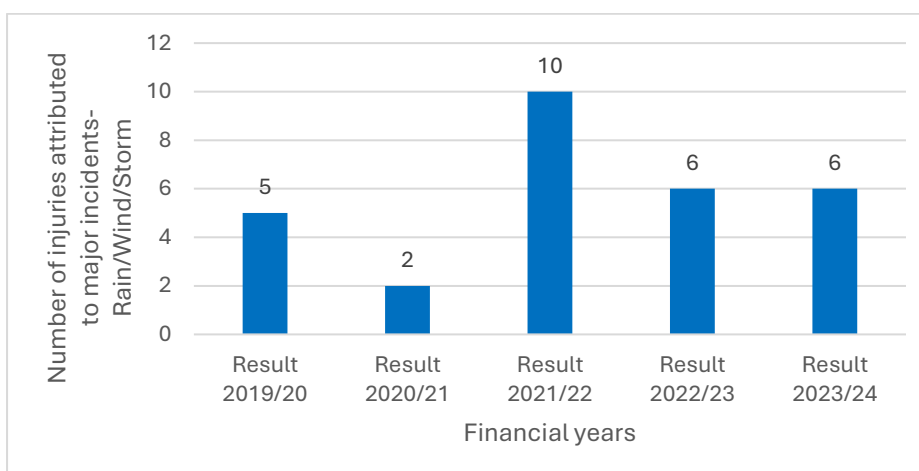
The number of injuries increased between 2019/20 and 2020/21, decreased between 2020/21 and 2021/22 and then increased again. Over the 5-year period, the number of incidents has almost doubled. When compared to the statistics for the number of fire incidents, it is important to note that the highest number of incidents was in 2021/22, but the increased number of fires did not result in a higher number of injuries or an increase in the number of deaths.

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N1. Number of injuries attributed to major incidents - rain/ wind/ storm

Graph 33: Number of injuries – rain/wind/storm

Per graph 33, the highest number of injuries resulting from rain, wind and storms was experienced in 2021/22. The trend aligns with the number and types of incidents in the 5-year period of reporting.

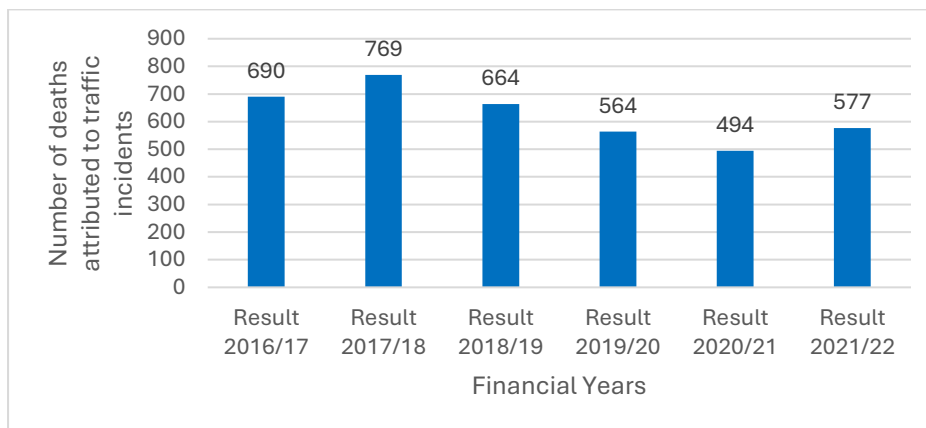


Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2019/2020-2023/2024)

Target: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator: 11.1.5.N14. Number of deaths attributed to traffic incidents (reports received by the municipality)

Graph 34: Number of Deaths – Traffic Incidents



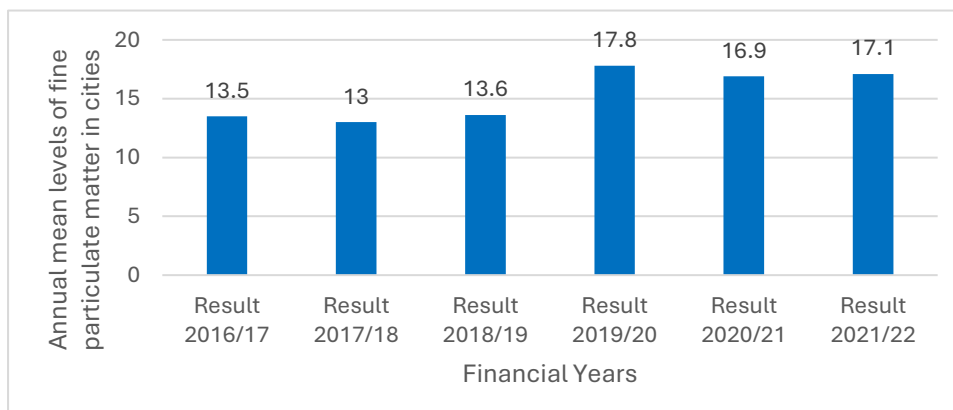
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2021/2022)

Traffic incidents resulted in the greatest number of deaths in the 2017/18 fiscal year. The trend decreased for a few years up to 2020/21 but then increased in 2021/22. Traffic calming measures, education and awareness campaigns, and traffic management initiatives are continuously implemented to reduce traffic incidents. A substantial number of pedestrians are killed in traffic incidents, pointing to the need for further initiatives focused on pedestrians.

Target: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality, and municipal and other waste management.

Indicator: 11.6.2. Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

Graph 35: Annual Mean Levels of Fine Particulate Matter



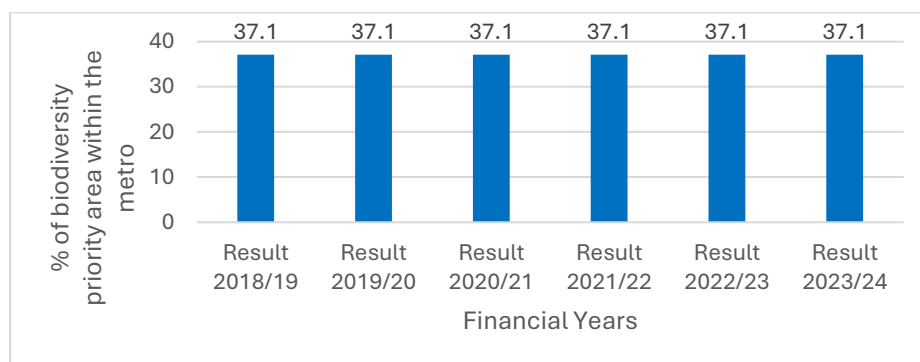
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2016/2017-2021/2022)

The levels of fine particulate matter were lower in the three years between 2016/17 to 2018/19 than in the latter 3-year period between 2019/20 and 2021/22. This suggests a decline in air quality due to particulate matter 2.5 and particulate matter 10. Measures are being taken to enhance air quality monitoring and to improve the current levels of particulate matter.

Target: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

Indicator: 11.7.1.L1. Percentage of biodiversity priority area within the metro (ENV4.11)

Graph 36: Percentage of biodiversity priority area within the metro



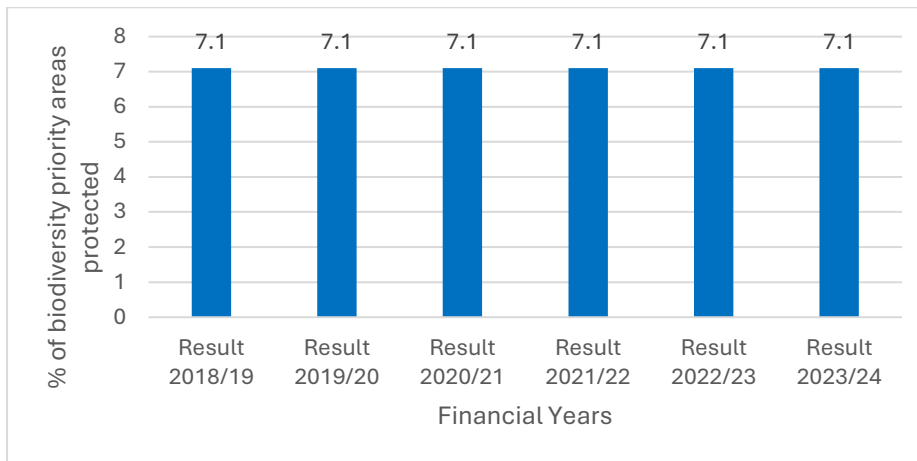
Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2018/2019-2023/2024)

The percentage of biodiversity priority areas within the metropolitan area has remained the same over the 6-year period from 2018/19 to 2023/24. Similarly, the percentage of biodiversity priority areas protected, as shown in graph 37, also indicates a commitment to prioritising biodiversity. Conflicting demands for land use have hindered efforts to increase the percentage of biodiversity priority areas, so maintaining the existing percentage is considered a positive achievement. Attempts to identify and protect additional areas are ongoing but must be balanced against other land use requirements.

Target: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green, and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

Indicator: 11.7.1.L2. Percentage of biodiversity priority areas protected (ENV4.21)

Graph 37: Percentage of Biodiversity Priority Areas Protected



Source: eThekweni Municipality Annual Report (2018/2019-2023/2024)

All identified biodiversity priority areas are protected, deterring the land from being used for other purposes. It also impacts positively on the environmental footprint within the city.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Recognising the importance of SDG 12 with regard to the social, economic, and environmental aspects, it is observed that there is a lack of data and an inability for EMM to report on various indicators. The concept of the circular economy must be promoted more actively within the city, and more collaboration is required to achieve the targets for this SDG. There are many opportunities to learn from each other, but these knowledge exchanges must translate into practical initiatives to ensure that progress is made. This SDG has been prioritised as EMM recognises the environmental and food security-related risks that could arise if the targets for this SDG are not met.

Some initiatives being implemented contribute towards SDG 12, namely:

- The Agri-hubs and food gardens
- Projects related to reuse/redirection of waste, as detailed in the best practices in this VLR
- Sustainable Tourism projects like the Green Corridor
- The Isithumba Travels Adventure Park - Isithumba is a popular destination that has attracted numerous tour operators bringing tourists to experience the authentic Zulu way of life. The park offers Zulu village tours, traditional dancing, and bead selling. In 2002, the South African government built the Isithumba Tourism Centre, later named the Isithumba Travels Adventure Park, in response to the community committee's request. This park aims to promote sustainable tourism. Additionally, it offers after-school activities and homework classes are offered for children as part of community development initiatives.



Isithumba Travels Adventure Park

Source: Facebook/eThekweni Municipality (2024)

In addition to municipal initiatives, several projects are being implemented by private businesses, NGOs, CSOs and academia, either on their own or in partnership with the EMM. Over the past few years, there has been an escalation in the number of projects being implemented, with many of these projects displaying innovative and sustainable approaches.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Considering the natural disaster-related events within EMM over the past five years, some may view this SDG as one of the most critical for EMM. Given the increased number of climate-related disasters worldwide, the same may be true for every country on earth. The impact of climate-related disasters on life and property within EMM has already been detailed in the progress reporting for SDG 11, with inadequate preparedness for disasters hampering relief efforts. The exponential increase in the severity and frequency of natural disasters means that robust, collaborative disaster risk reduction and management plans are required. EMM has embarked on a process to review its plans and processes to ensure better responses in the event of future disasters. This is coupled with urban resilience initiatives using tools such as Greenbook Metroview.



Source: iol.co.za (2023)

In addition, measures are being implemented to mitigate against future events such as the Forecast Early Warning System which proved successful in saving hundreds of lives in the Quarry Road West Informal Settlement during the April 2022 floods.

An area that requires improvement is the need to build back better and ensure that damaged or destroyed infrastructure is rebuilt using more resilient designs and materials. The use of nature-based solutions is being explored within the Palmiet Catchment Rehabilitation Project, as experiences from other countries show that infrastructure built in this manner is more resilient.

As a coastal city, EMM is impacted by rising temperatures and sea levels, and damage to sewerage infrastructure results in waste entering the sea, thereby affecting marine life and local tourism. Coastal infrastructure is at increased risk of damage, with several coastal suburbs within EMM having been impacted by high sea levels in the past. Furthermore, as a port city, increases in sea levels have a detrimental effect on port operations and have a resulting impact on the economy of the city.

EMM is negatively impacted by these incidents, but a significant consideration is waste flowing downstream from areas higher up, which then affects coastal water quality and pollutes sea water, endangering marine life. Therefore, a holistic and collaborative approach is required to deal with pollution and waste management for collective success.

Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters:

EMM is implementing several initiatives to build capacity to deal with climate change. At the centre of its communication strategy is the City's [Climate Portal](#), which serves as a one-stop-shop for all information related to climate change, including updates on the implementation of the Durban Climate Change Implementation Plan (DCCIP). The city is strengthening resilience through the implementation of a Community-Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (CEBA) approach, where communities are employed in projects to manage ecological infrastructure, providing community members with income and improved ecosystem services such as climate protection. Good examples of the CEBA approach include the [Buffelsdraai Landfill Site Community](#)

[Reforestation Programme](#) and the [Transformative River Management Programme](#). CEBA is based on a no-regrets, multi-benefit approach to land stewardship. The Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Planning Branches are working with traditional communities to raise awareness and knowledge of climate change.

Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into policies and planning:

In 2019, the city approved Africa's first Climate Action Plan (CAP) that raises the city's ambition to meet targets supporting a 1.5 °C world. In June 2022, the city approved the first five-year revision of the Durban Climate Change Strategy (DCCS), and these two key strategic documents were integrated into the City's DCCIP. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the DCCIP is done through a bespoke reporting tool piggybacking on the City's Enterprise Performance Monitoring Application. Reporting outcomes are communicated through the city's climate change governance structures, with the mayor-led Climate Change Committee providing oversight of the DCCIP implementation in the city. Results are also reported annually in the City's [DCC Annual Report](#).

Target 13.3: Build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change:

The Durban Research Action Partnership (DRAP), a collaboration between EMM and the University of KwaZulu-Natal, has been dedicated to transdisciplinary research since 2011, with a substantial number of programmes running over the past decade. [DRAP](#) is anchored by the city-funded Global Environmental Change research programme, which recently launched its fourth three-year programme focussing on knowledge gaps resulting from the implementation of the DCCIP. Other research programmes include the Sustainable and Healthy Food Systems (SHEFS) programme, the National Research Foundation's Communities of Practice, INACCT Resilience and Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities in Durban.

Target 13.4: Implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change:

South Africa is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, and as one of the leading municipalities implementing climate change in the country, EMM is at the forefront of contributing towards the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). The City has established a wide range of partnerships between other municipalities, spheres of government, local communities, and research organisations to achieve the NDCs.

Target 13.5: Promote mechanisms to raise capacity for planning and management:

EMM has developed and successfully conducted two iterations of its climate change course for City officials. The course is accredited by two professional bodies in South Africa, which allows participants to earn continuous development points required by their professional bodies. Currently, the EMM is working on supporting the food sector in the city to develop a food security policy, primarily by providing research outcomes from the SHEFS DRAP programme.

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Once home to the largest land-based whaling station in the world, Durban offers spots along the coast for whale watching, and whale watching tours are also popular. Whaling ended in 1975, but the remains of the whaling station serve as reminder of the detrimental effect of such activities on marine life.

Visitors flock to the shores of the province to witness the annual sardine run and enjoy the great beaches in the city. Consequently, the coastline provides economic benefits to the city. As mentioned earlier, the impacts of flooding and waste entering rivers and the sea have a detrimental effect on marine life, beach water quality, and tourism. Initiatives are being implemented to mitigate these impacts.

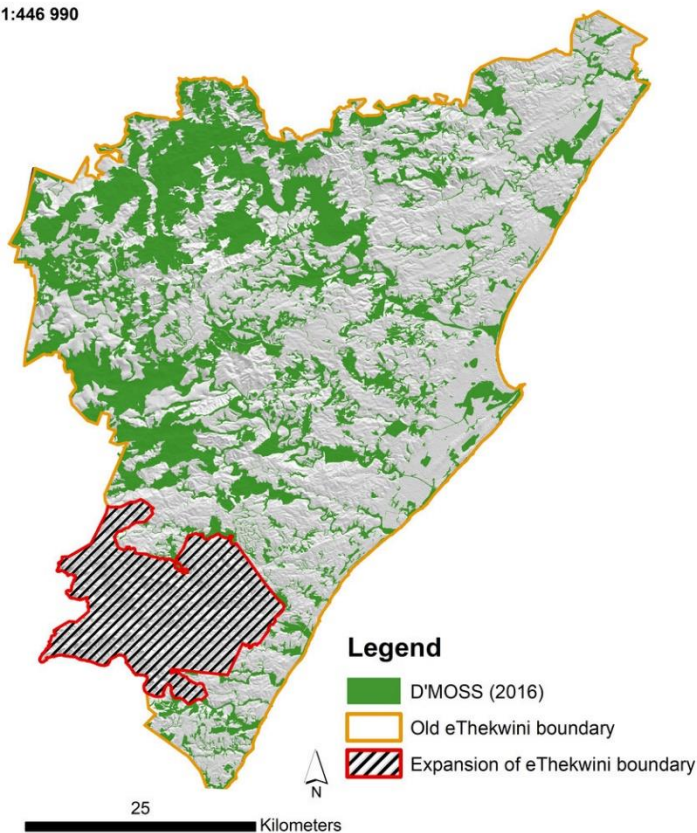
Durban is also home to the South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR), based at Ushaka Marine World. Their activities contribute towards the provision of scientific research and information, creating awareness about marine conservation and where necessary, caring for injured marine animals. In a city where fishing is popular, further initiatives are required to educate anglers about marine conservation and sustainable fishing practices.

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The EMM is blessed with a biodiverse range of plant, animal, bird, insect, and mammal species. It is therefore incumbent upon the EMM to ensure that these species are protected for future generations and to safeguard the food chain. The impact of climate change is increasingly affecting forests and plant species, and unless measures are taken by residents and visitors to the city, there will be negative consequences. Many initiatives have been implemented to promote the protection of all species, and the EMM is well known for many of these initiatives. The Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (DMOSS) areas is an initiative aimed at protecting land that is home to biodiverse species. Currently, 37 percent of the land within EMM is protected as DMOSS areas, where no development is allowed. Constant efforts are being made to identify

additional opportunities, but it must be recognised that this is a collective responsibility that requires each person to do their part to protect the environment. There is currently no data available for progress reporting on this SDG.

1:446 990



Source: eThekweni Municipality

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

As a sphere of government, municipalities are governed by legislative requirements and mandates. Effective service delivery is essential, with accountability being a key factor.

Historically, marginalised communities were not always considered when plans were finalised, and decisions made. In adopting the SDGs, a key objective was leaving no one behind. As the world evolved, there is now much more consideration for the needs of diverse communities and there has been a revolution in the way these needs are catered for. EMM is mandated to engage with communities to identify their needs and incorporate them into plans and budgets. Limited resources don't always allow for the immediate fulfilment of all needs and providing this feedback to community members is an area that requires improvement. There has been an improvement in community engagement in recent years, but education campaigns are also needed to enable community members to engage fully with municipal processes.

Although many of the targets for SDG 16 are not the mandates of municipalities, they are relevant to all institutions. Therefore, measures must be enhanced to ensure peaceful, inclusive, just societies where inclusion and accountability are championed. Quantitative progress cannot be reported on this SDG as there is no data available.

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

In the context of EMM, SDG 17 has played a crucial role in supporting the municipality's contributions mentioned throughout this VLR. Several partnerships have been established, with new one's emerging regularly, providing opportunities for mutual learning and innovation, while optimising the municipality's limited resources. The EMM has also received valuable technical and financial assistance through these partnerships, without which many achievements would not have been possible. Collaboration also ensured that there is no duplication of efforts in achieving common goals.

This SDG was prioritised because it emphasises the significance of collaboration and partnerships, highlighting the crucial role of government and communities working together to ensure that the SDGs are achieved. Indicators for this SDG are reported at National level and as such no data or progress reports are presented in this VLR. However, based on the results achieved from partnerships and collaborative initiatives, it is safe to assume that these have driven many successful interventions in various sectors.

Best practices and successful initiatives/ projects

EMM has earned a reputation for being innovative in various sectors through the development and implementation of initiatives and projects that serve as examples for other municipalities, both locally and internationally. Examples of some of these initiatives for the prioritised SDGs have been detailed in this section.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

According to the Statistics SA mid-year population estimates (2022), 51,1 percent of the South African population is female. Additionally, the General Household Survey (GHS) 2021 reports that 42 percent of households are headed by females. Considering this, gender equality must be promoted nationwide. Some of the initiatives being undertaken by EMM include:



- Establishing Victim-Friendly Rooms in all forty-two police stations within the district of eThekweni. These rooms have social workers on call as well as NGOs that support the service. Victims are attended to at the Victim-Friendly rooms, not in the service office, to maintain privacy and confidentiality.
- Awareness-raising campaigns in schools – the target is at least thirty campaigns per month in different schools. The programmes are a collaboration between local government, provincial government, and NGOs operating in the specific ward/s.
- Safetipin Project – safety audits were conducted in the two regions of EMM – Inner/ Outer West and North (Inanda, Ntuzuma, KwaMashu, Phoenix) as well as taxi ranks, and main arterial routes used for public transport. The audits assessed the safety of women in public spaces. This helped mobilise service delivery departments such as eThekweni Electricity and eThekweni Parks department to ensure that public spaces are lit, and verges are maintained regularly. Continuous public space conditional assessments are conducted by officials from the Area-Based Management Unit and calls are logged and referred to service delivery units for remedial action to be taken.

- Thus far, over 30 Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) have been established in EMM. The plan is to have GBVF RRTs established in all wards in eThekwinini by the end of June 2024.
- In July and September 2023, 137 officials were trained, whose function is to coordinate municipal and government programmes in communities. These are the Community Mobilisers from the EMM Community Participation and Action Support Unit, Operation Sukhuma Sakhe (OSS) Coordinators from the Mayoral Parlour, Field Administrators from the EMM Safer Cities Unit, and Community Development Workers from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA). They were trained by the Office of the Premier on the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF. The training focused on the establishment of ward GBVF Rapid Response Teams in line with Pillar 4 of the NSP on GBVF, which speaks to Response, Care, Support and Healing. The GBVF RRTs are expected to enhance the current response, care, and support services provided by the state and civil society. These services should be victim-centred, survivor-focused, and trauma-informed to facilitate recovery and healing.

The trained colleagues have started establishing ward GBVF RRTs. This process involves working with each ward Councillor and identifying key stakeholders from civil society and government. Subsequently, a training workshop is organised, and after the training stakeholders appoint members to serve on the RRTs. Each RRT is then expected to set up a WhatsApp group where they will facilitate responses to GBVF cases that are reported.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Source: Veoliawatertechnologies.com (2019).

The City's first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) was the Durban Water Recycling (DWR) Plant, which has been successfully operational since its commissioning in 2001. This plant has a capacity of 47.5 ML/d (megalitres per day) where domestic and industrial wastewater is treated to a near-potable standard for sale to industrial consumers, for direct reuse in their processes. The project is an excellent example of a PPP that leverages the synergies of the partners to achieve an outcome that addresses key water security issues, ensuring future water supply. The city has registered a new PPP with the National Treasury that aims to optimize the current plant and incorporate a new 20 ML/d reuse plant for potable water.

The project demonstrates innovative approaches to sustainable water resource management, reducing water consumption and environmental pollution, and achieving technically challenging water and wastewater treatment goals. It demonstrates that by pooling resources and expertise in a PPP, and by focusing on long-term sustainability goals, all stakeholders can benefit, including the environment.

This project contributes to achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals:



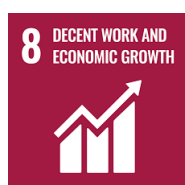
SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

The energy crisis in South Africa has heightened the need to identify alternative sources of renewable energy. While the generation of electricity is the responsibility of the national power producer, ESKOM, EMM initiated projects to explore alternative sources for electricity generation

even before the adoption of the SDGs. The municipality launched its Solar (Photovoltaic (PV)) project with the installation of solar panels on five municipal buildings: at Ushaka Marine World, the Moses Mabhida Stadium sky car, People's Park restaurant at Moses Mabhida Stadium, Metro Police Headquarters and the eThekweni Water and Sanitation Unit Customer Services centre. In total, the installations saved the city 426.75MWh of electricity a year, with a cost saving of R337 396 in the first year (Global Africa network, 2017). The project provided valuable insights into PV installations, and the lessons learned have informed future projects and policies.

The municipality is currently exploring the hydrogen economy as another source of energy and has been instrumental in convening summits, workshops, and events to explore renewable energy options.

Another project underway is REFFECT Africa which seeks to convert waste to produce energy. The project is funded by the European Commission, with the EMM being one of twenty-nine partners from sixteen countries working on the project. The project will produce three gasification demonstrators at three separate locations in Africa – one in Durban, one in Ghana and one in Morocco. The Clairwood Fresh Produce Market will host the Durban demonstrator. This project is in the third year of its 5-year period with the gasifier currently being built. Once commissioned, the gasifier will gasify wood waste to produce energy that will be fed back into the grid at the market to reduce reliance on ESKOM supply. The process will also produce biochar that will be composted with organic waste to produce a high-quality compost. This project contributes to the following SDGs:





SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all

One Home One Garden Programme.



Source: Show me.co.za (2012)

Members of the group who were trained by representatives of the Mbumbulu Agri-Hub as they look after their produce in the fields. Pictures: NOLUTHANDO MKHIZE

The EMM One Home One Garden programme and the Agri-hubs involve the transfer of agro-ecology techniques and skills to community members. This enables households to create low-cost and low-tech sustainable food gardens using various growing mediums such as tyres, containers, pellets, vertical towers etc. This is an effort to supplement household food baskets, consume nutritious foods, improve household food security, and generate income by selling excess produce to their neighbours. The EMM Agro-Ecology Unit consists of six production hubs across the city i.e., Northdene (Head office – central), Marrianridge (Central), Inchanga (West), Umbumbulu (South), Newlands (North) and Hambanathi Agri Hub (Far North). These are used for training, skills, and knowledge transfer, and are accessible to communities across the city.

This project contributes to achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals:



Sisonke Durban Garden.



Source: Connective-Cities.net (2023)

Collaboration between the NPO, Bioregional South Africa and the EMM has resulted in two food gardens being further supported and established on municipal land –Sisonke Durban Garden in North Beach, started by homeless men during lockdown, and a food garden in Davenport Park, Bulwer, Durban. A permaculture mentor was employed one day a week for differing time periods at each site to provide training and guidance to the growers working in the gardens. In May and June 2023, the gardens earned over R10K and R8K, respectively, from sales of fresh produce to local restaurants, a hotel and retailers. All money earned is profit shared among the workers.

The Bulwer Park project has received funding to establish a creche on-site as part of a greater precinct improvement project. Sisonke Garden has had a circular economy project established, started by BioRegional, in the form of Southern Sun's Elangeni Hotel giving the garden up to one ton of Bokashi-treated food waste per month. This waste is composted on-site by combining it with organic garden waste from street trees, and park waste from Hoy Park sports complex. This results in diversion of up to some four tons of waste combined that would ordinarily have gone to landfill. The hotel buys back herbs from the garden weekly which they use in their kitchens, creating a closed-loop system where the waste they produce is used to grow the food they consume. Some of the restaurants supplied with fresh produce are now also providing the team with their coffee grounds on a weekly basis when their fresh produce is delivered. This is added to the compost being made at the Sisonke Garden. Approximately 80kgs of food waste and coffee grounds were diverted during the Tourism Indaba 2023. A new business enterprise, Sisonke Compost, is in the process of being established to continue diverting organic waste from EMM's landfills.

With the goal of zero waste gardens, vegetables are delivered in reusable crates whenever possible. Where plastic bags are unavoidable e.g. loose-leaf rocket, clients keep the bags for collection on the next delivery day, so they can be reused. Alternatively, when delivering to the restaurants they immediately transfer the produce to their fridges and give back the plastic bags/ reusable containers. One restaurant now even keeps its elastic bands for the team to use on bunched vegetables.

In 2024 Sisonke Durban Garden is to receive significant funding as part of Heineken's Green Zones project whose aim is to support the just and sustainable development of under-resourced communities by establishing accessible and inclusive urban green spaces.

This project contributes to achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals:



SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Several initiatives and projects undertaken by EMM contribute to reducing inequalities, including the provision of free basic services to indigent households. EMM data related to the provision of these services has previously been presented in this report. Additionally, two initiatives currently in progress to ensure inclusivity for members of vulnerable and marginalised groups are presented here.

Benches in the Organ Donor memorial garden

A new installation of benches and hand-painted rocks at the Durban Botanic Gardens honours the contribution of organ donors in saving lives. This installation was carried out by the Organ Donor Foundation, with the mosaic tile work on the benches completed by four young people from the Action in Autism foundation who are on the autistic spectrum, guided by the artist and designer, Kirstin Miller. As indicated on the signboards at the installation:

“This memorial garden is inspired by organ and tissue donors who have helped save lives.

Its siting is no accident and creates a tranquil space in which to contemplate the symbolism of the butterflies' transformation.

Interlocking cobbled rounds represent links between donors and organ recipients, while the rounds themselves allude to the circle of life and wholeness.

Meanwhile cheery indigenous planting emphasises a sense of gratitude for renewal, even as the previous season's splendour fades.”

The contribution of these young people makes the installation even more special and equips them with skills that can be used on similar work.



The horticultural team at the Durban Botanic Gardens also partnered with Action in Autism to provide permaculture training to a group of beneficiaries. This training aimed to enhance skills in plant propagation to develop green entrepreneurs and horticulturalists. The training primarily took place at the Action in Autism premises, where an urban food garden has been set up.

These projects are designed to address inequalities in society, create opportunities for vulnerable and marginalised groups, and promote food production, thereby supporting the achievement of the following SDGs: SDG 10, SDG 1, and SDG 2.



Source: Facebook.com/ Action in autism (2023).

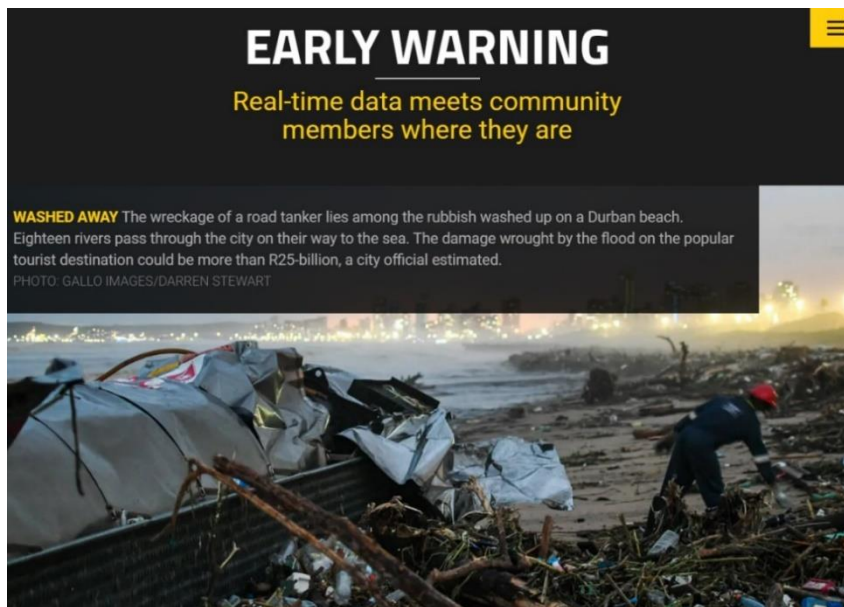
SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

SDG 11 focuses on the mandate of cities worldwide. While data for SDG 11 has already been presented, there are various initiatives underway that contribute to making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Some of these initiatives are detailed in this section.

Forecast Early Warning System (FEWS)

The EMM Coastal, Stormwater and Catchment Management Department has implemented a Forecast Early Warning System (FEWS) to better manage and mitigate the effects of flood-related disasters. The EMM experiences flooding on an annual basis, with these events varying in severity from minor damage to loss of lives and infrastructure. Although these events are natural disasters, an action plan is needed to minimize their effects. Changes in rainfall patterns, rising sea levels, population growth and economic activity are driving an increase in demand for flood risk forecasting and mitigation engineering. Worldwide, flood disasters account for about one-third of all natural disasters. South Africa's increasing demand on cities for employment results

in large-scale urbanization into flood plains and river courses. Furthermore, the capacity of ageing urban drainage systems to cope with infrastructure development and changes in climatic rainfall patterns will increase the probability of extreme events.



Source: Earthjournalism.net (2023)

The South African constitution states that everyone has the right to an environment that is safe and not harmful to their health. According to the National Disaster Management Act, prevention and mitigation are top priorities, with early warnings being a key aspect of disaster prevention. The development of the FEWS is a groundbreaking initiative in South Africa and Africa. FEWS is a disaster management and data monitoring tool that simulates flood scenarios, environmental water quality, coastal erosion, and wave behaviour. Access to reliable weather forecast data allows the system to predict the effects of natural disasters ahead of time, allowing enough time for the information to be provided for emergency resource allocation so that the city is better prepared. A web app was developed by the Coastal, Stormwater and Catchment Management Department for the public. The eThekweni Coastal Live website is an initiative to primarily communicate weather-related information within EMM. It is built for 'mobile first' technology with the intention of having users engage more often. Coastal Live was launched by the EMM Mayor in November 2020.

This project contributes to achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals:



Urban Food Garden/s



This project aims to provide a source of free food to those in need and is part of a comprehensive approach to the localisation and mainstreaming of global commitments and the transformative development agenda, within our specific context. Therefore, it is aligned with the municipality's efforts to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly, Goal 11 and Goal 2.

The municipality's Parks, Recreation and Culture Unit had previously planted food gardens in the same location as a means of providing food to impoverished community members. As part of the SDG related initiatives, this vegetable garden was replanted and officially launched by the Executive Director of UN Habitat during her visit to the city in October 2022. While in the planning stages for the garden, the City of London invited the eThekweni Municipality to join the #World's To-do list campaign which is an SDG campaign aimed at sharing knowledge about the SDGs and getting everyone involved in achieving the SDGs. The garden benefited underprivileged community members as the vegetables harvested provided them with healthy food that they may

not otherwise have had access to. This is the first garden being planted as part of the SDG initiatives, but the long-term plan is to create similar gardens in other parts of the city. While this garden is planted by the municipality, the vision is that EMM develop partnerships with businesses and civil society to plant similar gardens and eventually get community members involved in planting their own gardens to provide a sustainable source of food.

In addition to this being a city-based initiative, it is also part of the Global SDG campaign called the #Worlds To-Do list. The campaign aims to amplify the voice of Mayors to achieve the SDGs. More information on the campaign is available at <https://worldstodolist.org/>

Integrated Safer Cities Programme

The eThekweni Municipality served as the pilot city for the National Integrated Safer Cities Programme. This programme brings together all municipal, provincial, and national stakeholders involved in municipal safety with the aim of coordinating and streamlining their efforts to use resources effectively. The programme was assessed in EMM and then rolled out to other metros, with the lessons learned in EMM being used to improve in other metros. One of the deliverables was an integrated Fusion Centre to manage emergency incidents. This centre has been used to manage various major incidents since its launch. The programme yielded satisfactory results, the most important being the legacy of collaboration amongst stakeholders that continues to this day. This programme ran for two years with the ongoing monitoring of the action plan now incorporated into the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster of the District Development Model.



Source: durbanlife.wordpress.com (2020)

eThekwini Strategic Hub

A game-changing portal called the Strat Hub that hosts dashboards and tools related to city-based data was launched in September 2022. The Strat Hub visualises data from multiple sources on easy-to-use dashboards that are intended to be used for insight-driven decision-making. The Strat Hub has received several awards, including BCX award for Best in Technology (Public Sector Category), and second place in the 2023 Centre for Public Service Innovation Awards in the Internal innovation harnessing ICT or non-ICT solution category. It was also a finalist for the Innovation Award at the 2022 World Smart City Awards. The Strategic Hub was created to revolutionise decision-making by using data and trends to inform these decisions. The Open SDG Portal is hosted on the Strat Hub, which can be accessed on this link: <https://strathub.durban.gov.za>

Development of the Strat Hub and using it as intended provides valuable input into achieving all SDGs but is most notably aligned to SDG 9 and SDG 11.

eThekwini Digital Twin project

The Digital Twin project, funded by the German government, strengthens the digital transformation of Durban and sister city, Bremen. As part of this process, a digital twin (a digital representation) of Durban is being developed based on the model of Bremen (www.3d.bremen.de) and an integrated strategic data platform for the city of Bremen will be developed based on the model of Durban (www.strathub.durban.gov.za). The Digital twin allows for the running of scenarios and modelling to enable better planning, thereby contributing predominantly to SDG 9 and SDG 11, amongst others. The pilot of the twin has been completed, with additional areas of the city being progressively added.

Karibu Care Project

The Karibu Care Project, funded by the Mayors Migration Council, is designed to provide support for refugees, migrants, and internally displaced people within EMM. It consists of the Karibu Community Care Centre and the Karibu Care Portal. The centre is a facility that community members can visit to obtain a hot meal, use ablution facilities, obtain social support, and receive guidance on other matters such as obtaining an ID document. The Karibu Care Portal will allow for recording of details of refugees, migrants and internally displaced people; the recording of jobs being offered by supporting stakeholders and the recording of potential donations. The project is in its final stages of completion of phase 1, and the site also hosts a permaculture garden to provide fruit and vegetables for use on site. It is designed and built with sustainability

in mind, for example, water for the ablution facilities and gardens are supplied from rainwater tanks. There are plans to expand the facility to include a laundry and waste recycling facility. This project contributes to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 13, and SDG 17.



Photo (left to right): The Karibu Care Centre under construction, and the permaculture garden at the centre.

The Community Development Programme (CDP)

The Community Development Programme (CDP) is a national partnership initiative involving informal settlement communities, civil society organisations (CSOs) and municipalities. The pilot phase is a partnership between the eThekweni Municipality, PPT and seven informal settlement communities (Quarry Road, Palmiet Drive, Havelock, Bhambayi Phase 3, Progress Place, Dakota Beach and Ezimbeleni). It supports incremental upgrading by improving basic services, reducing health and safety threats and strengthening local capacity and resilience. Local community members undertake various community-based functions including those related to solid waste management, fire prevention, planning and coordination. A total of 68 workers have been appointed to date and are receiving basic stipends.

The CDP pilot in eThekweni is a 24-month initiative that commenced in January 2023 as an extension of the iQhaza Lethu Incremental Upgrading Partnership Programme (2018-2022). It is funded by the Municipality utilising the Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant – a conditional grant from National Government for the purpose of incrementally upgrading informal settlements. Further project details are included as an annexure.

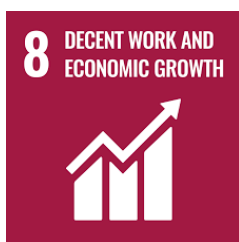
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production Patterns

KwaMashu Waste Beneficiation Centre



Source: citizen.co.za (2023)

The KwaMashu Material Beneficiation Centre (KMBC) was established by Green Corridors to beneficiate materials collected from the litter-boom project and the informal communities within which they work. Green Corridors is an NPO funded in part by the EMM Economic Development Unit. One of the key projects is the use of Illegally dumped building rubble, street-swept sand, low-value post-consumer glass and non-recyclable plastics as the main ingredients to make green concrete pavers, retaining wall blocks and other green products. Once a replicable model has been developed at KMBC, it will incubate entrepreneurs and rollout our green concrete and composting technologies. We should all embrace the fact that all materials have value and waste currently being disposed of on the ground can generate an income and uplift communities, if managed responsibly. The KMBC provides the opportunity to see how the circular economy works. This project contributes to achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals:



Warwick Zero-Waste Project



Over the past two years, the Warwick Zero Waste project team and partners have been implementing an innovative composting pilot. They take organic fruit and vegetable waste from the Early Morning Market (Markets of Warwick) and compost it with garden refuse at the Durban Botanic Gardens. Starting small and growing incrementally, the pilot now composts over two tonnes of organic waste weekly with plans to scale up further and replicate the model across the city. Composting organic waste instead of landfilling reduces methane emissions – a key step in mitigating climate change. The composting pilot is a partnership project involving the Urban Futures Centre and the Department of Horticulture at the Durban University of Technology, local NGOs Groundwork and Asiye eTafuleni, and city partners: the eThekweni Municipality’s Parks Recreation and Culture Unit, the Business Support, Tourism and Markets Unit, and the Cleansing and Solid Waste Unit. Once again, this project is a shining example of the circular economy in action.

This project contributes to achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals:



SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Transformative Riverine Management Programme (TRMP)

The EMM has developed the TRMP, a community-based stream maintenance effort that aims to upscale river management within the EMM to improve biodiversity, secure ecosystem services for future generations, enhance climate change adaptation, and create job and skills development opportunities. The flagship project is Sihlanzimvelo which manages 535 km of stream each year, providing over five hundred jobs. During 21/22, EMM developed a business case for the TRMP with the assistance of the C40 Cities Finance Facility. For every Rand EMM spends on TRMP, the city receives between R1.80 and R3.60 in societal and natural benefits. In 2023, the city was awarded the Ecologic Award for the TRMP. The community workers, called Enviro-champs, apply the Amanzi Ethu Nobuntu “citizen science” process for water quality and public space monitoring, data collection and reporting, community education, and interventions, including alien clearing, solid waste removal, flood attenuation and wetland improvement and food garden irrigation. The Public Employment Programme (PEP) TRMP is currently implemented in nineteen initial precincts with teams of 12 Enviro-champs.

Enviro Week

The inaugural eThekweni Enviro Week took place in March 2023. The Enviro Week initiative is a result of a partnership between the City of Bremen, Green Corridors and EMM. It is a call to action for everyone in the city to work together to care for the environment. The programme involved local organisations arranging and conducting environmental education and cleanup campaigns that community members can participate in.



Durban Climate Action Plan

Durban was the first African city to release its climate action plan. The city is actively implementing the Durban Climate Change Implementation Plan, which combines the Durban Climate Change Strategy and the Climate Action Plan. The plan sets targets for different stakeholders to achieve over different periods. Progress is monitored through the City's Enterprise Performance Monitoring Application with reporting outcomes presented to the City's climate change governance structures, including the Climate Change Committee, chaired by Mayor Kaunda.

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Many of the successes experienced by the EMM in terms of SDG-related initiatives are due to collaboration with local, national, and international partners. Many examples have already been presented in this report, with the following being additional case studies of note.



SDG 17 mural

SAIL AFRICA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Sail Africa is a Non-Profit Public Benefit Organisation based in eThekweni with sailing and maritime education at its core. The sailing area is the Durban Wilsons Wharf precinct. Sail Africa has been working with the EMM Economic Development Unit in implementing the Maritime Industry Development Programme. This partnership is created to promote the maritime sector and expose the previously disadvantaged communities from the rural and township areas in Durban through Development Sailing Sport in line with the SDGs.

Sail Africa has a history of introducing disadvantaged youth to the sport of sailing, with sailors having been instrumental in achieving the following:

- Been selected as Sailor of the Year at prestigious yacht clubs.
- Sailed Internationally.
- Studying toward entering the Maritime profession on vessels.
- Entered the Maritime profession as Cadets, Officers on Watch, and interns
- Become certified sailing instructors.
- Have been internationally profiled.



Sail Africa began in 2008 by introducing disadvantaged youth to sailing opportunities in the ocean's economy, opportunities they may not have accessed. Through these activities, sailing has become a recognized enabler of Operation Phakisa, aimed at ocean-based economic activities.

Sail Africa seeks relevancy and designs programmes around the Sustainable Development Goals such that the activities encourage:

SDG 1 & 8: Poverty Alleviation: Sail Africa has been intentional in designing deliberate programmes and activities aimed at empowering youth from historically marginalised groups by offering accredited training programmes that have aided youth to become qualified swimming and sailing instructors, who are now gainfully employed as skippers on local and international vessels.

SDG 10 & 11: Reducing inequalities by transformation and social cohesion to address Gender Equity through “Girls in Sailing” which is aimed at encouraging and empowering young girls to get involved in ocean sport as a safe landing, exposure and awareness to ocean-based leisure and economic activities. This programme also fosters skills transfer through interracial, intercultural and intergeneration interaction.

SDG 4: Improving the quality of education: Through this programme, learners have experienced a significant improvement in their academic performance, life skills and personal development. This programme also provides maritime career awareness by sharing different career options and their entry requirements with the youth encouraging them to pursue studies in maritime fields such as nautical science and maritime transport economics at high school level. This also prepares them for further studies in sea-going nautical sciences and shore-based shipping transport logistics, equipping them with the necessary to participate in the ocean-based economy through job opportunities and enterprise development.

SDG 3: Water safety is the pillar of the Oceans Sport, and all youth programmes begin with water safety capacity building. This contributes to better health.

SDG 5 & 10: This programme also promotes gender equality through the internationally profiled “Girls in Sailing” programme, where there is a dedicated focus on training girls and providing them with support to participate in regional and international races.

SDG 12, 14 and 15: Raising awareness of marine environmental issues with reference to plastic pollution by embarking on harbour clean-up campaigns.



Sail Africa collaborates with stakeholders in the EMM to offer sailing as a recreation and as a competitive sport; as well as to promote maritime awareness in the form of water-based skills subset; and advance maritime subjects in high school and at tertiary level. The programme also provides life skills and personal development, to young people between the ages of 14 and 24 at township schools offering maritime subjects, and in the Durban University of Technology maritime studies department.

To enhance the experience, Sail Africa formed partnerships with government at both provincial and local level, such as the KwaZulu Natal Department of Sport Art and Culture and the EMM Economic Development Unit. The programme has strong links to other NGOs such as the South Africa International Maritime Organisation (SAIMI) and the eThekweni Maritime Cluster (EMC).

The Durban University of Technology Maritime Studies Department recognises sailing as a sport that develops life skills such as the ability to work well in teams, preparedness, the ability to make decisions, and communication. These are soft skills valuable for the world of work. In addition, sailing in Durban harbour introduces students to the practical components of harbour craft and navigation.

Sail Africa trains up to fifteen youths as instructors. The selected young people are either students or unemployed youth drawn from the feeder schools attending programmes. They receive advanced training and skills development, giving them soft skills and qualifications that enable them to be employed in a range of maritime-related jobs.

Many other successful partnerships and the opportunities that were presented by those partnerships are covered in the section dealing with partnerships and cooperation.

DURBAN GREEN CORRIDORS

According to their website, “Green Corridors partners with a variety of stakeholders, to create open spaces in key local destinations. The goal is to establish a balance between important environmental ‘musts’, and the challenges faced by communities who live in those areas. By restoring those environments to good health, the benefits to the community are valuable and ensures safe and clean spaces in which children can play, non-toxic rivers, and meaningful employment in numerous sectors, including tourism.”



Source: durbangreencorridor.co.za (2024)

Essentially, Green Corridors is a special-purpose vehicle established by the municipality and supported by a network of partners and funders.

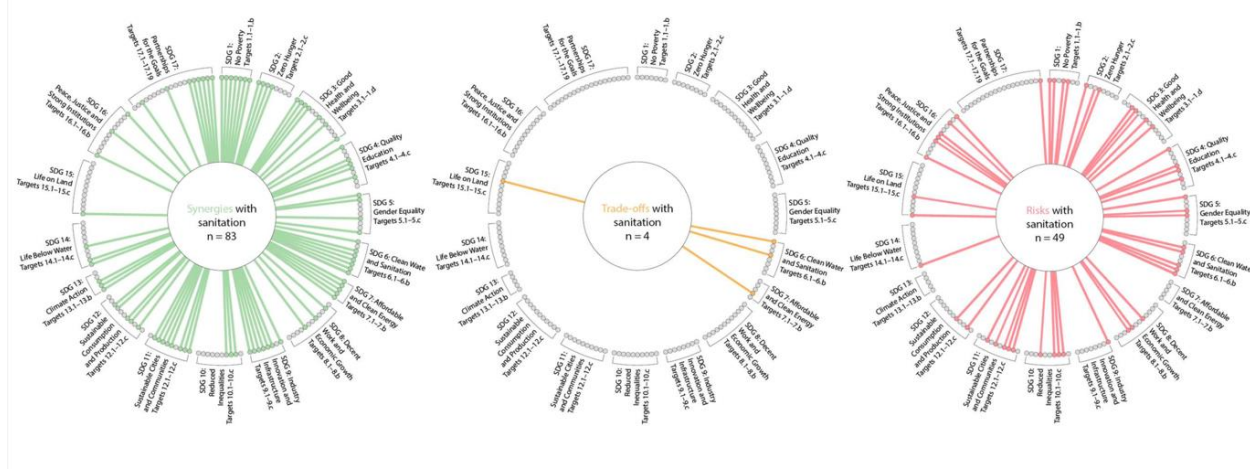
One of their projects related to the creation of Litterbooms that prevents over 2000kg of waste from entering the ocean each year. The work undertaken is linked primarily to SDG 6, SDG11, SDG 13 and SDG17.

Means Of Implementation

Partnerships and cooperation

The city is engaged in several partnerships, with the following being of note and producing tangible outputs:

- The Central KZN (KwaZulu Natal) Climate Change Compact, which has been active since 2014. This is a climate change-focused initiative between municipalities, provincial government, and SALGA in KZN. Another Compact is active in Mpumalanga. Three other Compact members are implementing TRMP projects funded by provincial government.
- EMM and the University of KwaZulu-Natal collaborate within the transdisciplinary Durban Research Action Partnership. This partnership has been active since 2011 with multiple research programmes focused on sustainability and climate change. The city-funded Global Environmental Change Research Programme is about to commence its fourth three-year phase, funded by eThekweni Municipality.
- The ToolSan Durban Project is a project in partnership with the University College London which focuses on research and benchmarking on SDG 6 related to water and sanitation. The first phase was completed and resulted in a toolkit that can be used for project prioritisation. The partnership has expanded to phase 2 which is currently underway focusing on assessing alternative sanitation solutions are related to SDG6.



Extract from the ToolSanDurban report. Source: eThekweni Municipality/ UCL

- The Durban/Bremen Sister City partnership has yielded several benefits, particularly for eThekweni Municipality. Some of these benefits have been the development of the Green Corridor and the Enviro Champs Programme. A trilateral report on a common set of SDG indicators that the City of Bremen, Windhoek, and Durban will monitor for shared learning amongst the three cities was recently completed.
- UN Habitat is another key partner in the SDG-related initiatives, with technical support previously and currently provided for many of the safety-related projects which primarily contribute towards achieving SDG 11. UN Habitat has also been instrumental in introducing the eThekweni Municipality to several partnerships and guiding some of the SDG-related work.
- The World Bank is a partner that has assisted and continues to support us with several projects that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Examples of the successes of this partnership include the exchange of lessons learned on the 2019 and 2022 floods, and the current support for the Urban Resilience efforts being undertaken by the municipality. They are also supporting the pre-feasibility studies being undertaken for projects that form part of the Smart City initiative. These projects will contribute to SDG 6, SDG 7, and SDG 11.

- GIZ (The German Development Corporation) has been instrumental in supporting the Transformative Riverine Management programme and several projects relating to SDG 13 which deal with issues of climate action.
- The UK (United Kingdom) Foreign Commonwealth Development Office has been a crucial partner in many projects undertaken over the years. These include supporting the development of an Informal Settlements Information Management System, providing technical support for working on Transit Oriented Development and most recently supporting the development of an eThekweni and KZN Regional Data Strategy.
- There has been success in the collaboration with the City of Windhoek, Namibia. Windhoek was a partner in the trilateral partnership to identify common SDGs for reporting amongst Bremen, Durban, and Windhoek. Prior to this there has been collaboration and knowledge exchange on matters of water management and other service delivery functions. Further collaboration and knowledge exchange is under discussion.
- The partnership with UCLG on developing the SDG Toolkits for cities as well as train the trainer programmes. This is one of the key programmes that are run nationally and globally.

Finance and Investment

Projects currently undertaken that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs are funded from existing budgets and are part of routine municipal initiatives. Within the current economic context, funding is extremely limited, with most resources directed towards core service delivery efforts. Therefore, it is challenging to direct City funding solely to projects aimed at achieving selected goals. However, recognising that delivering on the municipal mandate contributes towards achieving the SDGs, the entire budget (approximately R56 billion for 2023/24 fiscal year) enables action towards target achievement. For this reason, since the introduction of the SDGs, eThekweni Municipality has been aligning the city budget to the 17 goals. By doing so, the municipality can track the financial contribution towards the SDGs.

Limited resources require municipalities to innovate, identify and seek alternative funding sources or resources to find new funding opportunities and technical resources. The EMM has been successful in entering into multiple partnerships, both locally, nationally, and

internationally with other cities and organisations. These partnerships and collaborations have made valuable contributions to our efforts and have positively impacted municipal operations. However, it is necessary for all spheres of government to consider dedicating finances to SDG-related projects or to find innovative funding mechanisms that can be pursued. If this is not done, we run the risk of “doing business as usual” and the Sustainable Development Goals may suffer the same fate as the Millennium Development Goals.

Conclusion and next steps

The process of developing the VLR has highlighted the importance of collaboration, partnerships, relevant and quality data for reporting, and the need for more awareness campaigns as areas that need urgent focus. Challenges, particularly with data availability and alignment of reporting within the South African context, must be addressed to portray an accurate status of the progress towards meeting the targets. In addition, advocacy and awareness initiatives must accelerate to create accountability among every resident on the planet. The goals are such that if they are not achieved or if notable progress is not made, the current generation risks leaving behind a legacy that we will not be proud of.

Governments at all levels must also initiate measures to recognise work being undertaken as part of routine service delivery, as part of their contributions towards achieving the targets. For this to materialise, knowledge about the SDGs among government officials is non-negotiable. From a monitoring and reporting perspective, it is crucial that municipalities are consulted, and the results of the initiatives undertaken at municipal level must be aggregated to national reporting for results reported to be accurate. While strides have been made to achieve the targets, more effort is needed worldwide. With less than half the term remaining, we must implement accelerated initiatives for more considerable progress.

During the process of working on SDG institutionalisation, localisation and implementation, many lessons have been learned. In line with the lessons learned, the following recommendations summarise our proposals for the way forward:

1. As a collective, funding sources need to be identified to ensure that there are funds dedicated to the achievement of the SDGs, and there needs to be a fundamental change to the architecture of funding local governments to ensure that cities are financially enabled to deliver on achieving the SDG outcomes.
2. More collaboration and partnerships are necessary to drive collective action towards achieving the targets. Collaboration will result in streamlining resource usage to enhance efficiency, and to use limited resources more effectively.

3. The institutionalisation process must consider amendments to the planning processes to incorporate their consideration when projects are conceptualised. By doing so, it enables tracking of progress and expenditure on the SDGs.
4. Within the South African context, the National Treasury should be consulted to incorporate the SDGs in the Municipal Standard Chart of Accounts (MSCOA) strings. This will require municipalities to indicate how projects and the related budgets are aligned to the SDGs for better control and monitoring of finances contributed to achieving SDGs.
5. Another critical area requiring improvement is data collection for monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. The data needs to be at a disaggregated level to ensure local relevance. Furthermore, where data does not originate from Statistics SA, assessments of the quality of data available need to be conducted to allow data from other sources that meet the quality standards to be used for reporting and future planning.
6. Increasing initiatives related to creating awareness of the SDGs is of critical importance if we are to ensure that each member of society is motivated to play their role.
7. A further recommendation is the need to define the localised indicators for ease of creating a mutual understanding of what is being monitored. In doing so, the municipality will ensure that all users of the data are informed of details of each indicator, e.g., how the results are calculated, the importance of measuring the indicator, etc.
8. Currently, data for reporting is gathered by spreadsheet, requiring accessing these from manual records or electronic systems and then capturing the data into the spreadsheet. In addition to leading to inefficiencies, this manual intervention may lead to errors and has adverse implications for data quality. As the process proceeds, the municipality will be seeking mechanisms for data to be automatically uploaded to the SDG reporting platform where electronic systems exist.
9. In addition, further recommendations on specific issues include:
 - 9.1. Human Settlements
 - a. Urgent Acceleration: There is a global stagnation in upgrading slums and providing access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services for all. This highlights the critical need to expedite efforts towards achieving SDG 11.1.
 - b. Post-disaster Support: Cities grappling with disaster and emerging from it witness a significant surge in slum population and poverty. It is imperative to bolster support for cities in a post-disaster context to address this pressing issue.

- c. **Plurality of Policies:** No single slum or housing policy can effectively tackle all forms of housing inadequacies. Emphasising a diversity of policies, without significant gaps, is essential to ensure a range of housing types and delivery systems that cater to the diverse needs of urban inhabitants, including migrants, refugees and internally displaced people.

9.2 Transport

- a. **Advocating for Integrated Transport Systems:** Integrated, multimodal transport systems encompassing public transport, walking, and cycling yield numerous co-benefits. These include health, equity, social inclusion, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. As a result, promoting sustainable mobility across diverse transportation modes becomes a pivotal aspect of urban planning, design, infrastructure development, and accessibility.
- b. **Ensuring Comprehensive Mobility:** A well-integrated transport system not only provides a range of mobility options but also prioritises safety, reliability, accessibility, and inclusivity to cater to the diverse needs of all urban residents using various modes of transport.
- c. **Addressing Accessibility Gaps:** Despite the significance of integrated transport systems, only half of the global urban population currently enjoys convenient access to public transport. This accessibility disparity underscores the urgent need to enhance transportation infrastructure and services to better serve urban communities.
- d. **Mitigating Road Traffic Crashes:** Approximately 1.3 million people succumb to road traffic crashes annually, with pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcycle users comprising a significant portion of the casualties. Implementing integrated transport systems with a focus on safety can help mitigate such tragic outcomes and safeguard the lives of vulnerable road users.

9.3. Land Consumption

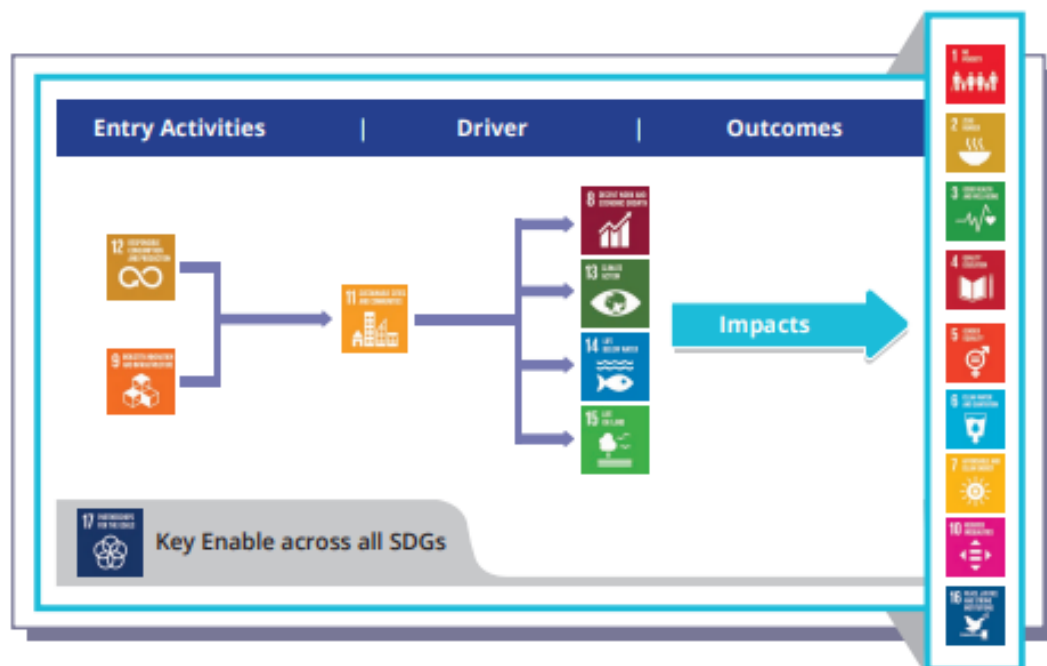
- a. **Advocating for Informed Urban Planning:** Since 1990, cities have been expanding spatially at a faster pace than their population growth, with a gradual slowdown observed from 1990-2000 to 2010-2020. Enhanced geospatial data availability, including high-resolution imagery and openly accessible tools, along with globally agreed definitions of urban areas has improved data accessibility for indicator 11.3.1.
- b. **Responding to the Pandemic:** The COVID-19 crisis has reignited discussions on urban densities and the future trajectory of urban growth. High densities are linked to increased risks, while low densities can undermine urban efficiencies. There's no one-size-fits-all solution for sustainable urbanization based on indicator 11.3.1; each city must establish a baseline for assessing its desired future and taking action accordingly.
- c. **Comprehensive Assessment:** To comprehensively gauge urban performance regarding indicator 11.3.1, it is crucial to analyse it in conjunction with other SDGs. This holistic approach provides insights into the interconnectedness of various urban development aspects.
- d. **Localized Planning and Evidence-Based Strategies:** It is imperative to formulate urban development and spatial plans at the local level, leveraging the best available data and evidence. These strategies should prioritize compact development over urban sprawl and foster high connectivity among different locations, promoting efficient and sustainable urban growth.

9.4. Policy Development

- a. **Advocacy for City-Centred Policies:**
 - Emphasise the importance of prioritising cities and human settlements in national planning and investments to effectively address key national and global development challenges.
 - Highlight the transformative potential of sustainable cities and human settlements in tackling various SDGs, especially in contexts with limited resources.
 - Advocate for a comprehensive understanding of the implications of pursuing a shared vision in an increasingly urbanized world.

b. Localising SDG Implementation:

- As local governments, look at the entry activities of SDG 12 and SDG 9 as drivers of integration of SDG 11 with other SDGs to leverage synergies and foster cross-fertilisation opportunities with greater outcomes and impacts as captured in the figure below.



c. Strengthening the Urban-Rural Continuum:

- Advocate for enhanced linkages, co-benefits, and integrated investments within the urban-rural continuum to maximise sustainable development outcomes.
- Call for the adoption of a national spatial lens in policymaking, promoting the integration of urban and rural areas across the continuum.

9.5. Advocacy for Retaining SDG 11.3.2 - Empowering Cities through Participation

As a city, we firmly believe that SDG 11.3.2, focused on enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization through participation, should remain a fundamental indicator within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- a. **Local Ownership and Engagement:** SDG 11.3.2 underscores the significance of local ownership and community engagement in urban development processes. By involving residents, stakeholders, and marginalised groups in decision-making, cities can ensure that policies and initiatives truly reflect the needs and aspirations of their diverse populations.
- b. **Effective Governance:** Participation fosters transparency, accountability, and legitimacy in governance structures. When citizens have a voice in shaping urban policies and projects, it strengthens trust between local authorities and the community, leading to more effective and responsive governance.
- c. **Sustainable Development:** Inclusive participation is essential for achieving sustainable development outcomes. By engaging citizens in planning, implementation, and monitoring of urban projects, cities can better address socio-economic disparities, promote environmental stewardship, and foster social cohesion, ultimately contributing to the overall advancement of the SDGs.
- d. **Innovation and Creativity:** Participatory processes stimulate innovation and creativity by tapping into the collective wisdom and diverse perspectives of city residents. By harnessing the creativity of its citizens, cities can develop innovative solutions to complex urban challenges, driving progress towards achieving sustainable development goals.
- e. **Empowerment and Social Justice:** Participation empowers marginalised communities and ensures their voices are heard in decision-making processes. By prioritising inclusivity and equity, cities can advance social justice, reduce inequalities, and create inclusive urban environments where everyone can thrive.

In conclusion, SDG 11.3.2 is not just an indicator; it's a catalyst for transformative change at the local level. Removing it would undermine the principles of participatory governance and hinder progress towards sustainable urbanization and inclusive development. Therefore, we urge policymakers to recognize the critical importance of participation and ensure its continued inclusion within the SDG framework.

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Annexures

- A. SDG Questionnaire to stakeholders
- B. CDP newsletter

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Annexure A



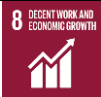
Stakeholder Questionnaire

Organisation/ name: _____

Contact person: _____

Contact number: _____

1. Which SDGs do you believe your organisation's work contributes towards?

	SDG1		SDG7		SDG13
	SDG2		SDG8		SDG14
	SDG3		SDG9		SDG15
	SDG4		SDG10		SDG16
	SDG5		SDG11		SDG17
	SDG6		SDG12		

2. What projects is your organisation working on that contribute towards achieving the SDGs?

3. What are your expectations from the eThekweni Municipality in terms of achieving the SDGs?

4. How do you think your organisation can contribute further towards achieving the SDGs?

5. Please provide any other comments or suggestions that you may have.
