

CITY OF UMHLATHUZE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)
VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW (VLR): BASELINE REPORT
(VERSION 2)
MAY 2025



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to transform the world and are a call to action to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy health, justice and prosperity. Agenda 2030 sets out the framework of the 17 transformational Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to tackle the world's social, economic and environmental challenges by 2030. Ratified by all United Nation member states in 2015, all countries and spheres of government; business; and civil society are responsible for the attainment of the SDGs.

Figure 1: 17 Sustainable Development Goals



South Africa has endorsed a National Development Plan (NDP) as a policy driver for development. There are clear synergies between our NDP and the SDGs. At a more localised level, the provincial development frameworks; the King Cetshwayo District and uMhlathuze Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Spatial Development Framework (SDF) have also established alignment with the SDGs.

When considering the full suite of SDG targets and indicators (associated with the 17 SDGs) it is clear that the municipal service delivery mandate and legislated functions responds to many of the targets and indicators. As such, local governments have a crucial role to play in this process of localizing the SDGs, i.e. working toward their implementation and reporting accordingly. As policymakers, catalysts for change and key actors in development, local governments have a unique capacity to implement and monitor sustainable development, prosperity and well-being at the local level.

The City of uMhlathuze is involved in a programme of “Localising the SDGs through the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)”. The programme is facilitated by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) who has partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide technical support to municipalities to develop their VLRs.

Reporting on an SDG (specific indicators) can only take place if suitable data is readily available. The process of localizing SDGs will therefore be an incremental process dictated by, amongst others, the

availability verifiable data. As such, the uMhlathuze Council has identified a preliminary set of SDGs to initiate the process of local reporting (VLR) on SDGs for uMhlathuze. It is not required, nor the intention of the Municipality to report on all the indicators; indicators to report on should be relevant to our service delivery mandate and existing reporting frameworks such as the SDBIP (Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan) with readily available data. When reporting on only a few indicators a level of confidence in the process, and the foundation for reporting to grow as access to more datasets, that are relevant to our service delivery mandate is developed.

During a meeting held on 7 December 2023, the uMhlathuze Council resolved to report on the following SDGs as part of this first VLR process:

- SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

On 25 May 2024, the uMhlathuze Council considered its First Baseline Report and further resolved, “that reporting on SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Growth) be prioritised for future VLR reports”.

As noted, adequate data is not available to report on all indicators associated with the SDGs. Also, in some instances, the relevant data available needs to be domesticated (D) given the peculiar local conditions. In context of the aforementioned, uMhlathuze is reporting on the following targets and indicators for SDGs 6, 7, 11, 13, 16 and 17.

Table 1: SDG Indicators for Reporting by uMhlathuze Municipality

Goal 6: Water and Sanitation
Description: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all).
Targets and Indicators
6.1 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services 6.2 Adequate and Equitable Sanitation and Hygiene 6.2.1 Proportion of population using safety managed sanitation services
Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
Description: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Targets and Indicators
7.1 Universal Access to Modern Energy 7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity 7D1. Proportion of Households in licensed municipal supply area using metered municipal supply of electricity
Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
Description: Makes cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Targets and Indicators
<p>11.1 By 2030, ensure access to all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</p> <p>11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlement or inadequate housing</p> <p>11.6 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</p> <p>11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of the total urban solid waste generated by cities</p> <p>11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities</p>
Goal 13: Climate Action
<p>Description:</p> <p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>
Targets and Indicators
<p>13D1. Integrate climate change measures into municipal policies, strategies and planning</p> <p>i. Formulation of and reporting on implementation of Climate Change Action Plan</p> <p>13D2. Improve education, awareness-raising, human and institutional capacity as well as reporting on climate change matters</p> <p>i. Awareness Campaigns</p> <p>ii. Stakeholder engagement on climate change matters</p>
Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
<p>Description:</p> <p>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>
Targets and Indicators
<p>16.6 Develop Effective, Accountable and Transparent Institutions</p> <p>16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)</p> <p>16.7 Ensure Responsive, Inclusive and Representative Decision-Making</p> <p>16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups</p>
Goal 17: Partnerships for the Growth
<p>Description:</p> <p>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development</p>
Targets and Indicators

17D1. Active participation in multi-stakeholder partnerships/networks by way of knowledge sharing, technology/expertise and financial resources to further the developmental mandate of the Municipality and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- i. Partnerships/Networks with private and public sector, including State Owned Enterprises

Note: In the above table, an indicator denoted with the **D** refers to a domesticated indicator.

The above SDGs and indicator descriptions are for initial/baseline reporting and VLR formulation purposes. As such, this report represents the development of the updated Baseline VLR report for the City of uMhlathuze. Where available, data in addition to the baseline is provided for additional context.

2. POLICY CONTEXT

The global and national agenda and policy principles underlying sustainable development are provided herewith.

South Africa has endorsed a National Development Plan (NDP) as a policy driver for development and the country plan to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality. There are clear synergies between our NDP and the SDGs as can be seen from the NDP high-level objectives and associated enabling milestones as well as the NDP Priorities.

For the African Continent, Agenda 2063 encapsulates not only Africa's aspirations for the future but it also identifies key flagship programmes which can boost Africa's economic growth and development and lead to rapid transformation of the continent. The seven (7) aspirations of **Agenda 2063** are:

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
2. An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
4. A peaceful and secure Africa
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics
6. An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children
7. Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner

The Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) is the policy framework guiding the reorganization of the urban system of South Africa so that cities and towns can become inclusive, resource efficient and adequate places to live, as per the vision outlined in Chapter 8 of the National Development Plan (NDP).

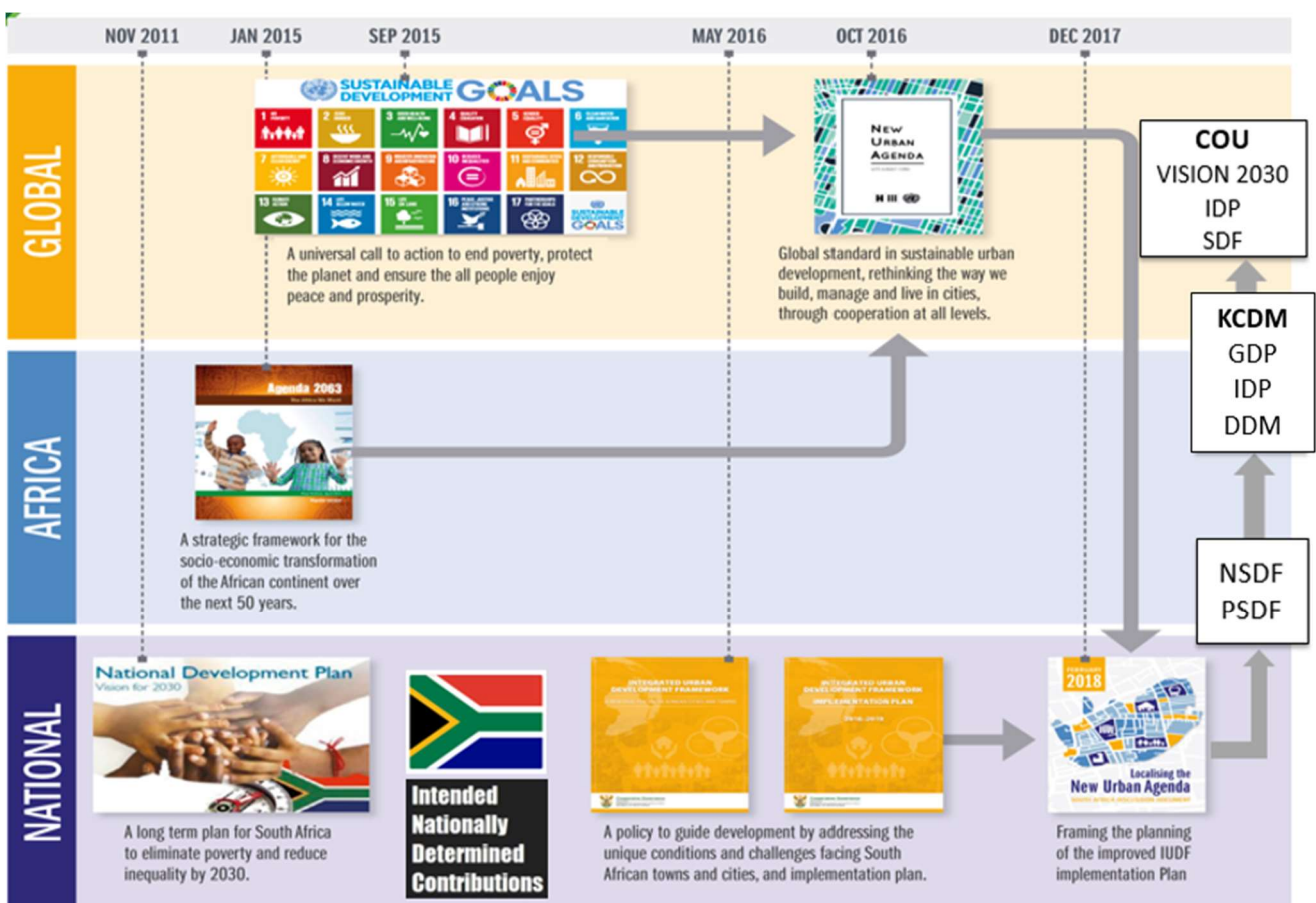
The overall outcome of the IUDF is spatial transformation. This new focus for South Africa steers urban growth towards a sustainable growth model of compact, connected and coordinated cities and towns. The IUDF objective conforms to the New Urban Agenda (NUA) vision of "cities for all". Apart from the nine (9) IUDF levers, the IUDF has the following three cross cutting levers:

- Rural Urban Linkages
- Urban Safety
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change



The above is echoed in the planning frameworks of the KwaZulu-Natal province as well as those of the King Cetshwayo District Municipality (KCDM). Hereunder, a schematic of the policy framework that stems out of the global New Urban Agenda and SDGs is indicated.

Figure 2: Policy Context



3. ABOUT THE CITY OF UMHLATHUZE

The uMhlathuze Local Municipality (LM) is located in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality in the North-Eastern part of KwaZulu-Natal. The uMhlathuze LM borders the following Local Municipalities (LMs) within the King Cetshwayo District:

- uMfolozi
- Mthonjaneni
- uMlalazi

Following the 2016 Local Government elections, the former Ntambanana Local Municipality was dis-established and a portion of its area was included into the uMhlathuze Local Municipality. As a result, the uMhlathuze Municipality now has an area of 123 325Ha (approximately 50% increase). The latest official population estimate (2022 Census) is 412 075.

Richards Bay and Empangeni are the most significant economic centres in the Local Municipality and in the District Municipality. Richards Bay, as a harbour and industrial town, attracts people from surrounding towns, rural settlements and from beyond the district. Empangeni's role mainly as a commercial and service centre to the settlements of Esikhaleni, Eshowe, Nkandla, Buchanana and other rural settlements attracts many people to the range of higher order services available in the town.

There are a number of existing natural and man-made phenomena that have shaped and continue to shape the uMhlathuze Municipality spatial landscape. The area to the east of the Municipality is inundated with a system of wetlands and natural water features such as Lakes Cubhu, Mzingazi, Nsezi and Nhlabane. Major rivers include the Mhlathuze and Nsezi.

The main access into the municipal area is via the N2 in a north south direction and in an east west direction the R34. Other significant roads in the area include the MR431 (that provides a northerly entry into Richards Bay from the N2) as well as the Old Main Road that straddles the N2 on its inland. Railway lines are prevalent in the municipal area but do not provide a passenger service, only a commercial/industrial service is provided.

The municipality has the benefit of about 45km of coastline of which about 80% is in its natural state. Linked to its coastal locality is the Richards Bay deep-water port that has been instrumental in the spatial development of the area in the past and will definitely influence the areas' future spatial development. There is one airport and a couple of landing strips in the municipal area.

The municipality has vast areas of commercial farmlands as well as a number of areas that are significant from an environmental perspective.

Approximately 26% of land within uMhlathuze Municipality is under private ownership and 51% under the Ingonyama Trust Board (ITB), the land is therefore administered by Traditional Authorities.

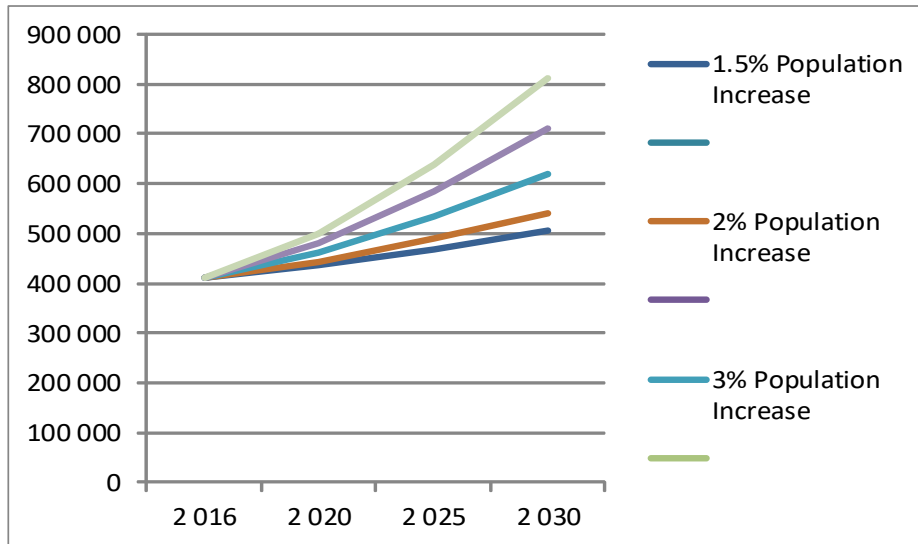
3.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2016 Community Survey, the uMhlathuze Municipality had the following main demographic indicators at the time:

Population:	410 465 people
Households:	103 915
Household Size:	3.95

The following graph provides an illustration of a 1.45%, 2%, 3%, and 5% annual population growth rate applied to the 2016 base of 410 465 people.

Figure 3: Population Increase Forecasts for uMhlathuze



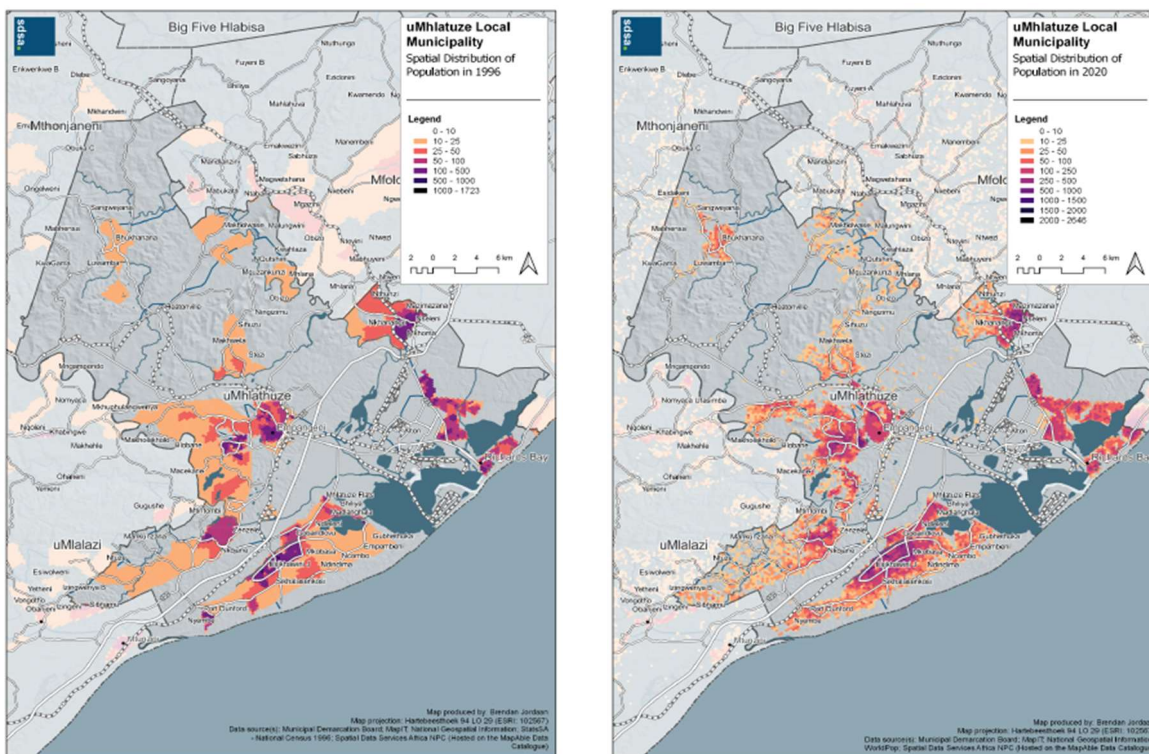
Source: uMhlathuze Spatial Development Framework (SDF), May 2024

According to the 2022 Census, the uMhlathuze Municipality had the following main demographic indicators at the time:

Population: 412 075 people
Households: 100 441
Household Size: 4.1

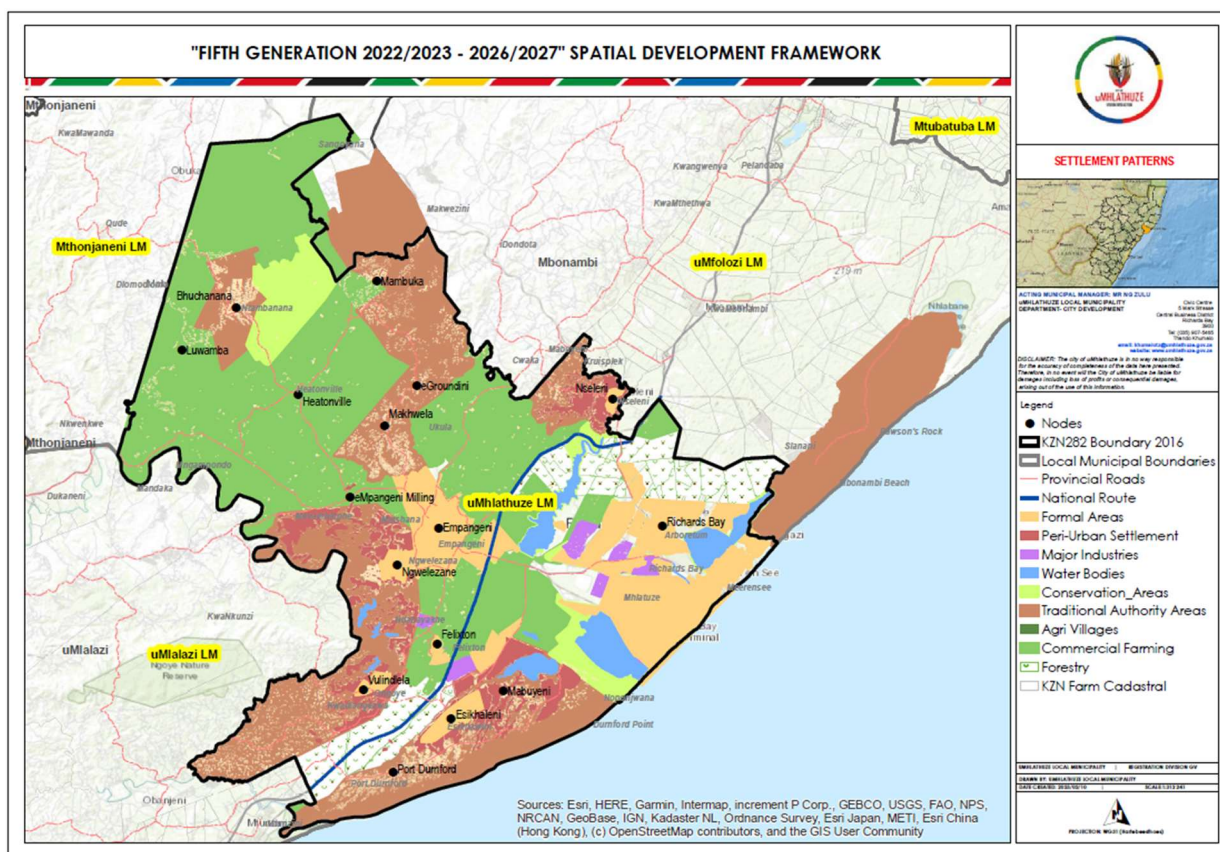
The following mapping provides an indication of the spatial distribution of the population and the change between 1996 and 2020.

Map 1: Spatial Distribution of Population in 1996 and 2020



Source: uMhlathuze Capital Expenditure Framework (CEF), 2023

Map 2: Settlement Patterns



Source: uMhlathuze Spatial Development Framework (SDF), May 2024

Higher population densities in the formal urban, and surrounding areas, as well as some of the Traditional Council areas is noticed.

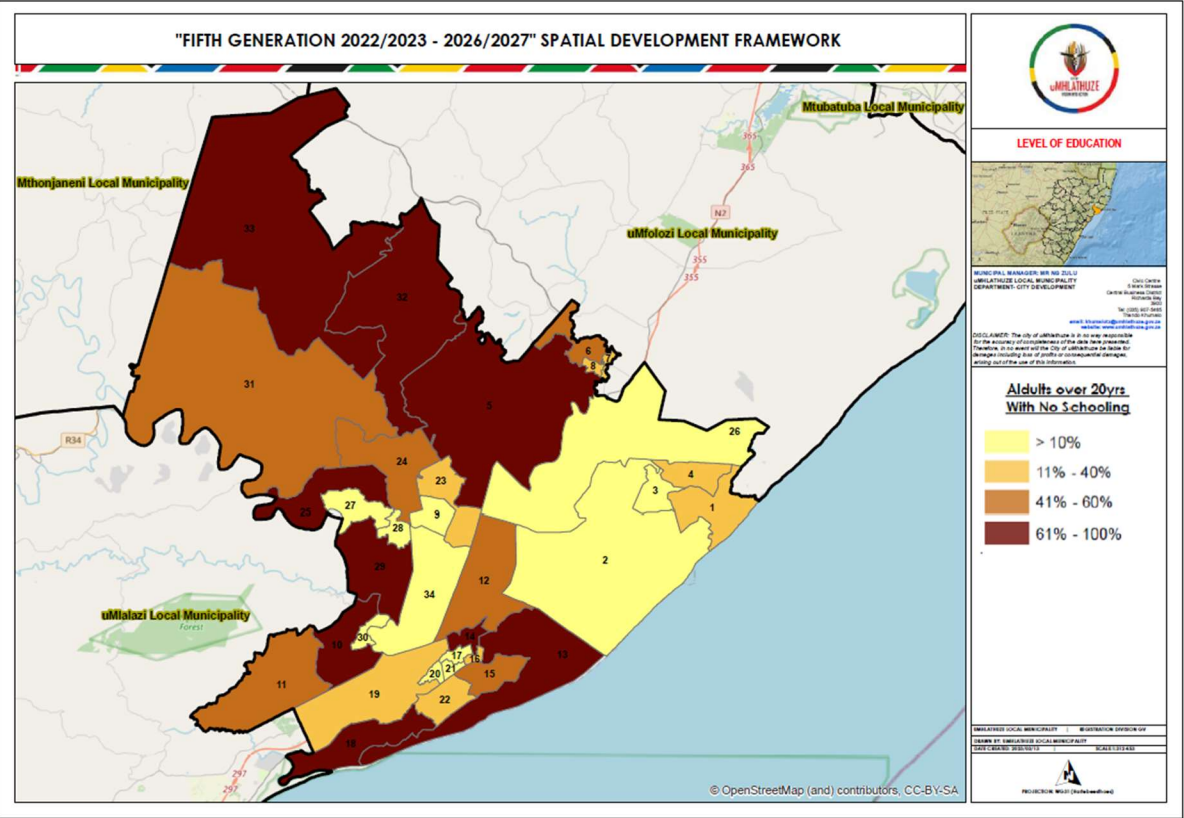
Entrepreneurship development and sustainability efforts in former R293 towns have been hampered by a number of reasons including inequalities, level of education, and lack of adequate information. The uMhlathuze Municipality is actively engaging relevant role-players in the Township Economy to address these.

3.2 INDICATORS OF POVERTY

The uMhlathuze Municipality has the most developed economy of all the municipalities in the district and is the major contributor to the District GDP. The Municipality has undertaken an assessment to identify areas of need based on 2011 census data that is available at ward level. The intention with the said process is have a guide for development investment, albeit at a large and not local/community specific scale. The outcome of this needs analysis is provided in the following series of maps depicted areas of need in respect of education, income, access to water and access to sanitation services. In short, the mapping outlines the following:

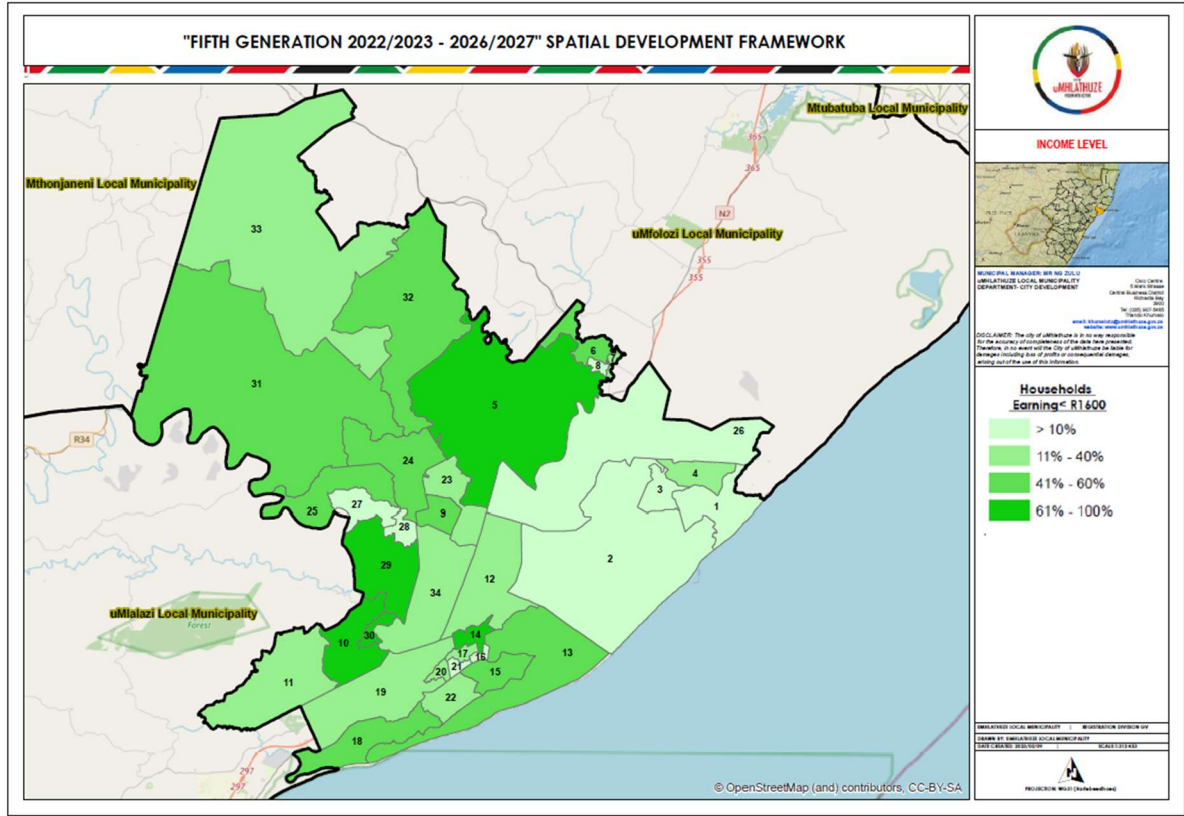
- With regard education levels, i.e. the comparative percentage of adults over the age of 20 years that do not have schooling, the incidence of this is highest (more than 61%) in Wards 5, 10, 13, 14, 18, 25, 32 and 33. This largely coincides with Traditional Authority areas.
- With regard to household income, i.e. the percentage of households that earn less than R1600 per month it is noted that Wards 5, 10 and 29 are the most impoverished in this regard.
- With regard to areas of need of water provision, Wards 33 and 31 have the largest percentage of population that do not have access to piped water.
- Similar to the access to piped water, the largest percentage of households that do not have access to hygienic toilets are from Wards 33 and 5.

Map 3: Level of Education



Source: uMhlathuze Spatial Development Framework (SDF), May 2024

Map 4: Level of Income



Source: uMhlathuze Spatial Development Framework (SDF), May 2024

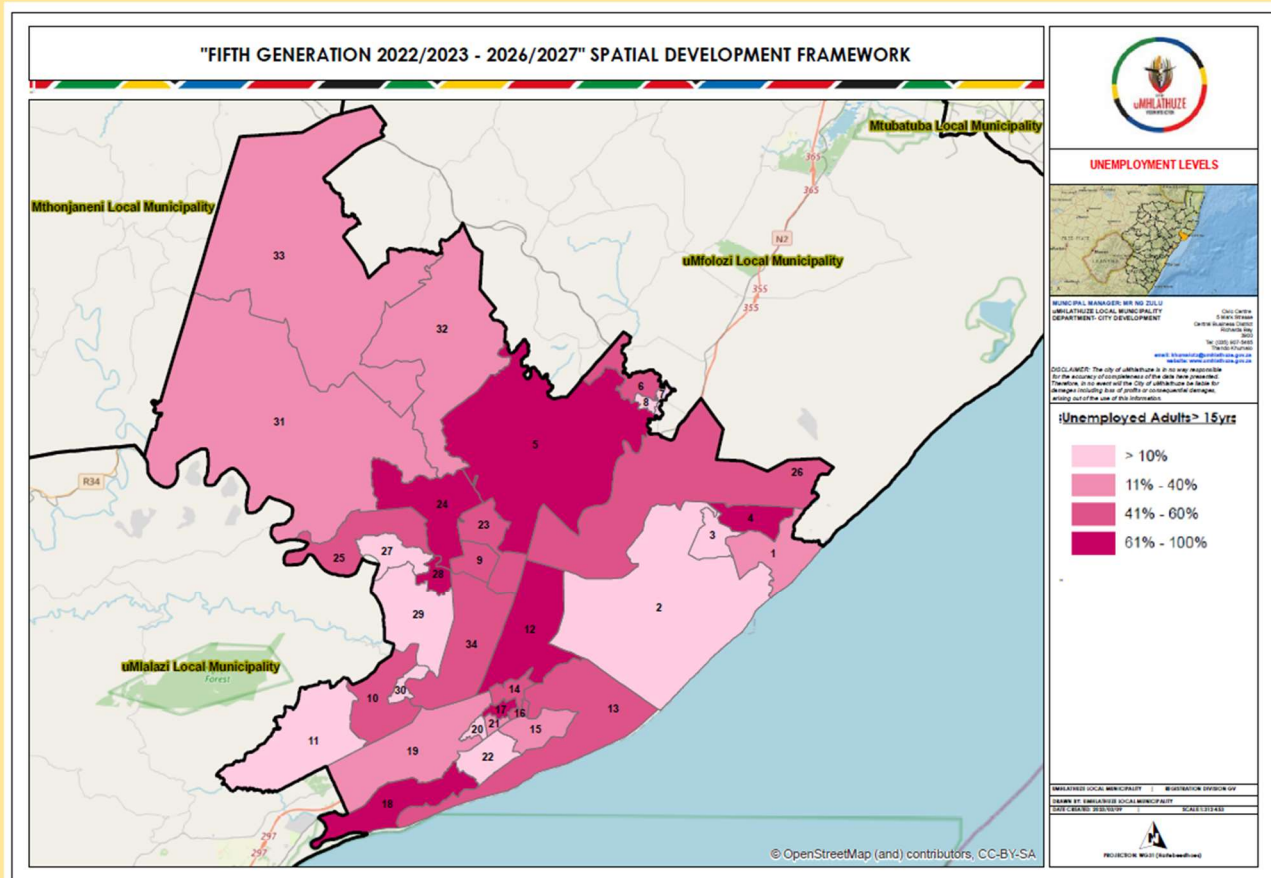


Map 6: Access to Sanitation



High unemployment undermines the equitable distribution of income and underpins poverty. Employment is one of the main desired outcomes of economic growth and is currently a major focus of government policy at the national level. Household income and consumption expenditure directly affects the municipal area's potential revenue base. The following map provides details on the comparative levels of unemployment in the Municipality as informed by the 2011 wards based census data. The wards with the highest percentage of unemployed individuals are 4, 5, 12, 18, 24 and 28.

Map 7: Levels of Unemployment



Source: uMhlathuze Spatial Development Framework (SDF), May 2024

3.3 KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The following provides a consolidation of the sectoral key development issues for the uMhlathuze Municipality. The importance of this analysis is the relation of the issues to the SDGs and the further emphasis of the interrelated nature of the SDGs.

Access to Services

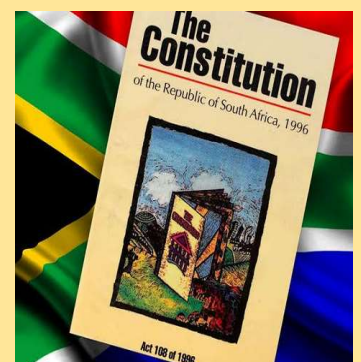
- The municipal area of uMhlathuze increased by roughly 50% following the 2016 Local Government Elections. The prevailing levels of services in the newly added Wards was generally lower than in wards that were formerly part of uMhlathuze. Also, the newly added Wards are predominantly rural with comparatively high poverty rates, comparatively low economic activity and lower levels of service provision.
- The highest percentage of adults over the age of 20 years that do not have schooling, are in Wards 5, 10, 13, 14, 18, 25, 32 and 33. These areas largely coincide with Traditional Authority areas and are an indicator for specific interventions needed in these listed areas. Also, the highest percentages of households that earn less than R1600 per month reside in Wards 5, 10 and 29. Wards 4, 5, 12, 18, 24 and 28 also have the highest percentage of unemployed persons.

- iii. Wards 31 and 33 have high percentages of households that do not have access to piped water while Wards 5 and 33 have a high proportion of their households without access to hygienic toilets. The above two points confirms that certain wards are experiencing low levels of service provision coupled with other indicators of poverty, i.e. low income, low education and low employment.
- iv. The City of uMhlathuze is implementing a strategic management plan for water conservation and water demand management.
- v. A very pertinent transport/roads matter that is having a severe impact on the Municipality is the prevailing congestion and influx of trucks into the municipal area to deliver bulk goods to the Port of Richards Bay
- vi. Aging infrastructure is creating difficulties with service provision and service provision reliability.



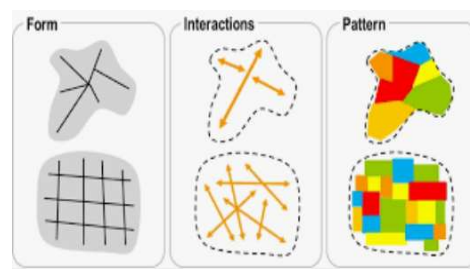
Governance and Partnerships

- i. More than 50% of the municipal area is under the jurisdiction of Ingonyama Trust Board. Whereas the Municipality has extended its Land Use Scheme to cover the whole municipal area, challenges with the management of rural land remain from a development control perspective.
- ii. Extensive land claims over portions of the municipal area and institutional procedures, in cooperation with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, are being put into place toward the resolution of these land claims.
- iii. Cooperation between the Municipality and SOE (State Owned Enterprises) are being pursued in the interest of economic development but also the conservation of natural assets.
- iv. Strong partnerships are also in place with various government departments in attaining goals of mutual interest.
- v. The municipality is experiencing challenges with fleet and this directly impacts service delivery



Spatial Form and Disaster Management

- vii. The Municipality has a disjointed spatial form. Travelling distances to places of employment and economic opportunity are unsustainable and unnecessary. Interventions are needed to improve access to services and opportunities in former Township and other marginal areas.
- viii. Linkages between areas of opportunity and densely populated areas need to be improved by way of improved roads/routes and public transport facilities.
- ix. Richards Bay and Empangeni are the most significant economic centres in the larger District while Esikhaleni has the potential to develop into a primary node if the local economy becomes more sustainable and diversified, specifically in respect of growth and employment opportunities.
- x. Aquadene, Brackenhams, Esikhaleni and Nseleni have the highest residential densities in the municipal area. High population densities are also found in the peri-urban areas.
- xi. Existing bulk infrastructure capacities will have to be increased at all nodes and growth areas to accommodate increased densities and expansion/development.
- xii. The spatial locality of hazards or hazard prone areas identified in the Disaster Management Plan largely correlate with areas where the most vulnerable communities reside.
- xiii. Hazards associated with industry need to be further investigated and response plans developed/shared. The potential disaster implications of new developments have to be evaluated and provided for during the planning stage of such a development.



Environment and Climate Change

- xiv. Vast peri-urban settlements lack proper planning and are often located in environmental high risk areas compromising their sustainability.
- xv. The complex hydrology of the area, whilst attributing to unique natural features, poses challenges for development. This is particularly the case to east of the Municipality that is inundated with a system of wetlands and natural water features such as Lakes Cubhu, Mzingazi, Nsezi and Nhlabane. Major rivers include the Mhlathuze and Nsezi.
- xvi. The impacts of Climate Change are experienced locally, i.e. the abstraction of water from the various Coastal Lakes have reached ecological reserve limits during periods of extended drought, severe flood events have yielded disaster implications for unplanned settlements with flood prone/ flood risk areas and the Richards Bay northern beaches in particular have been confronted with severe coastal erosion.
- xvii. The disjointed spatial structure of the Municipality is adding to the vulnerability of communities and hampering the Climate Change response of the Municipality.
- xviii. There are increasing concerns over the air quality in the area.



Human Settlement

- xix. A number of population growth scenarios have informed the need for land for human settlements, at varying densities, and ancillary land uses over the planning horizon to which suitable planning responses and provision of infrastructure is needed.
- xx. The uMhlathuze Municipality has three Restructuring zones, i.e. Aquadene, Empangeni and Expansion Area A and Priority Housing Development Areas have also been gazetted.
- xxi. Informal Settlement Upgrade and Relocation Plans for identified informal settlements is in place, i.e. Mzingazi Infills, Mzingazi Informal Settlement, Mandlazini-Airport Buffer Strip, Mandlazini Infills, uMzingwenya, Vulindlela, Nseleni Peri-Urban Settlement and the Ngwelezane Hospital Settlement.
- xxii. Some areas in the municipality are prone to land invasion.



Economic Growth and Development

- xxiii. The municipality has the benefit of about 45km of coastline that renders a range of economic/tourism opportunities and linked to its coastal locality is the Richards Bay deep-water port that has been instrumental in the spatial development of the area.
- xxiv. The location of the current Richards Bay airport poses challenges in terms of operations and future development. A pre-feasibility study for the proposed relocation of the Richards Bay airport has been completed and a full feasibility process underway for its redevelopment as part of a larger airport city.
- xxv. The need to move towards being a SMART city has been expedited by the COVID-19 pandemic in all sectors, i.e. commercial, education, government etc.
- xxvi. CoVID and the civil unrest of July 2021 have created economic growth and development challenges that need to be overcome.
- xxvii. High level of unemployment are prevalent.
- xxviii. Economic growth is being hampered by challenges with the reliability of electricity/energy supply, notably loadshedding.



Apart from the above listed challenges, there are a number of social challenges prevalent in the municipality, including high incidences of crime.



4. CITY OF UMHLATHUZE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The City of uMhlathuze adopted the following vision during the compilation of its Fifth Generation Integrated Development Plan for the 2022/23 to 2026/27 period:

“An aspirant metropolitan Port City focused on investing in quality infrastructure and service delivery in partnership with Traditional Councils, Communities and the Private Sector”

The following spatial vision statement for the Municipality is also in place:

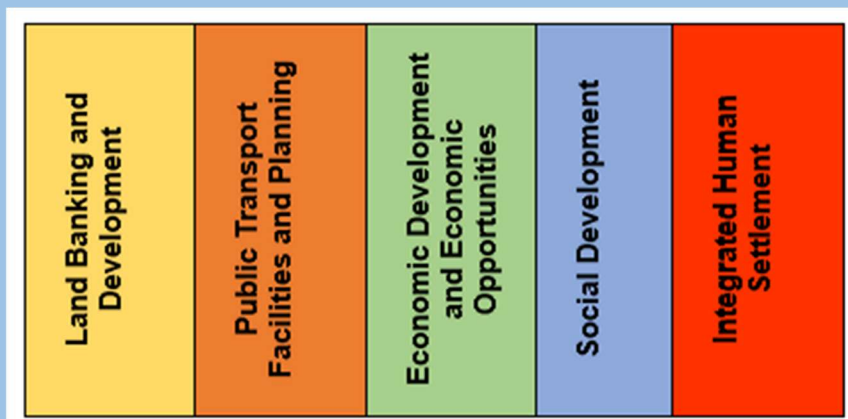
“An agile institution that fosters spatial sustainability, resilience, equity and compact growth, supported by appropriate ICT solutions”

The concept of **transformation** is enshrined in the uMhlathuze municipal IDP and Spatial visions. The National Development Plan 2030 makes a strong statement about the need to “address the challenge of apartheid geography” which is defined in terms of living, working and environmental sustainability. SPLUMA is identified as a tool to give effect to Spatial Transformation.

According to SACN (2013) ... in order to achieve spatial transformation in cities, government has to rein in the real changes not only in the physical realm but also in the way we approach both the problems and solutions. The uMhlathuze Municipality, like any other municipality in the country is required to give effect to spatial transformation in line with the National Development Plan, Provincial Growth and Development Strategy and Plan, Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act.

In the uMhlathuze Municipality, Spatial Transformation is informed by the following five key Pillars:

Figure 4: uMhlathuze Spatial Transformation Pillars



Source: uMhlathuze Spatial Development Framework (SDF), May 2024

The main objective of uMhlathuze Municipal Spatial Transformation approach is to address integrated development, city compacting, structural challenges, equal access to land and creating sustainable economic development and opportunities which will contribute to job opportunities. It is also to prioritise development within and along Municipal Nodes and Corridors as well as developing partnership with neighbouring Municipalities and other stakeholders.


A further explanation of municipal responses in relation to the above spatial transformation pillars is provided hereunder.

Table 2: Municipal Responses to Spatial Transformation Pillars

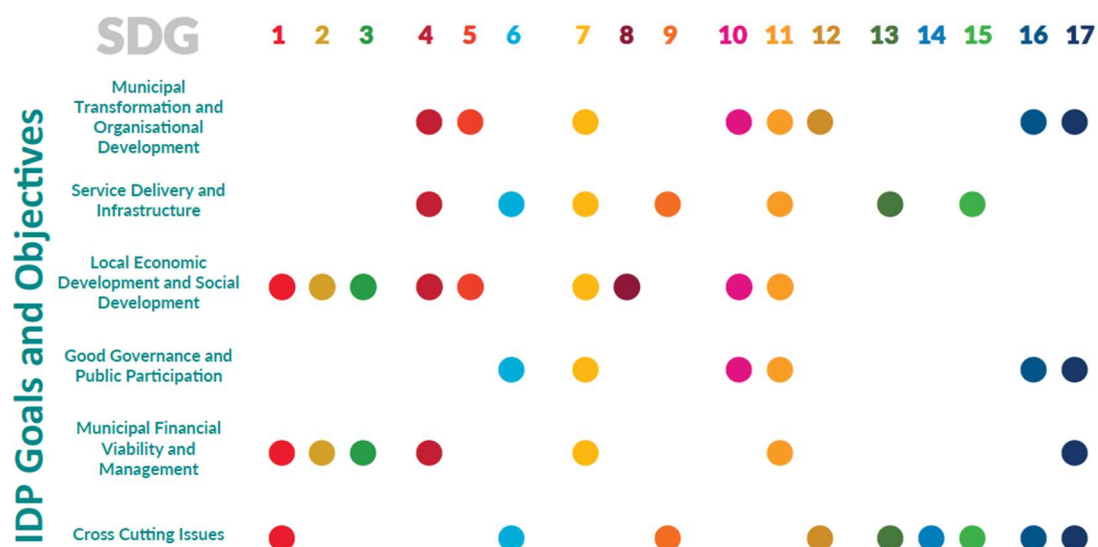
SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION PILLAR	MUNICIPAL SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION RESPONSES
Land Banking and Development (Brown and Green fields) <u>SDG 2, 8, 11, 16, 17</u>	Optimize and maximize land distribution and development through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Densification ○ Infill development ○ Promotion of environmental friendly and sustainable development ○ Encourage equal access to land ○ The SDF and development plans are used as a catalyst to address sustainable land distribution ○ A clear urban edge and development guidelines and incremental approach for certain areas to be applied ○ Development and Implementation of Rural Development Framework Plans
Public Transport Facilities and Planning <u>SDG 5, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17</u>	Further planning and development of Municipal Public Transport (facilities) that will address the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intermodal Public Transport System ○ Adequate Public Transport Facilities ○ Relationships with public transport stakeholders ○ Attract Investment
Economic Development and Economic Opportunities <u>SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17</u>	Economic Development and associated Opportunities that focusses on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage investment ○ Discourage new investment that will create exclusive enclaves for the rich ○ Promote equal access to economic development opportunities ○ Tourism investment enhancement ○ Port Development ○ Industrial Development and development of the Special Economic Zone ○ Food security
Social Development <u>SDG 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17</u>	Increase social development by way of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safety and Security ○ Health ○ Education ○ Job creation ○ Promotion of gender equity and equality ○ Food security
Integrated Human Settlement <u>SDG 1, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New integrated housing developments in Restructuring Zones. ○ Planning for integrated suite of land uses ○ Partnerships with government departments/service providers to provide in all needs

The relationship between the spatial transformation pillars of the Municipality and are indicated in the following table.

Table 3: Relationship between uMhlathuze Spatial Transformation Pillars and SDGs

	Land Banking and Development	Public Transport Facilities and Planning	Economic Development and Economic Opportunities	Social Development	Integrated Human Settlement
1. No Poverty					
2. Zero Hunger					
3. Good Wealth and Well-Being					
4. Quality Education					
5. Gender Equality					
6. Clean Water and Sanitation					
7. Affordable and Clean Energy					
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth					
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure					
10. Reduced Inequalities					
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities					
12. Responsible Consumption and Production					
13. Climate Action					
14. Life Below Water					
15. Life on Land					
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions					
17. Partnerships for the Goals					

The previous table (as applied to uMhlathuze) illustrates the interrelated nature of the SDGs to each other but also in relation to the uMhlathuze Municipality Spatial Transformation approach – as reflected by interventions being pursued by the Municipality. The published relationship between the SDGs and the municipal Key Performance Areas (KPAs) is also shown hereunder:

Figure 5: Relationship between Key Performance Areas and SDGs

Source: ICLEI

The following section provides a summary of some of the main interventions that the City of uMhlathuze is pursuing to give effect the municipal spatial transformation pillars.

4.1 LAND BANKING AND DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENT

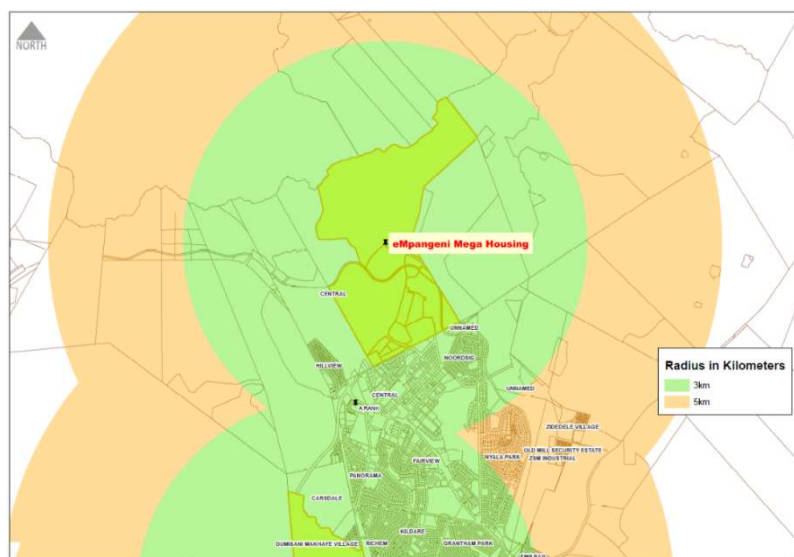
As a Municipality that is Level 2 Accredited, we have been investing in, amongst others, green field human settlements projects that are inclusive of a type of land banking as well. New guidelines direct these areas to be termed PHSHDA (Priority Human Settlements and Housing Development Areas). The three main current projects in this regard are summarised hereunder:

Empangeni Mega Housing

PROJECT NAME	INSTRUMENT TYPE AND HOUSING TYPOLOGIES	LINKAGE WITH GOALS INDICATORS
Empangeni Mega Housing	<u>Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RDP & Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme: 2065 ○ Social Housing: 1200 ○ Bonded Houses: 5791 ○ Serviced Sites: 578 ○ Mixed Use Residential: 304 ○ Medium Density Residential Cluster: 83 	<p>Goal: 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.</p> <p>Goal: 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.</p> <p>Indicator: 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically.</p>

In addition, there is a proposal also to cater for student accommodation. The following plan indicates the proximity of the Empangeni Mega Housing Project to the Empangeni CBD by way of distance radii of 3km and 5km respectively.

Figure 6: Radius around Empangeni Mega Housing Project



Source: uMhlathuze Spatial Development Framework (SDF), May 2024

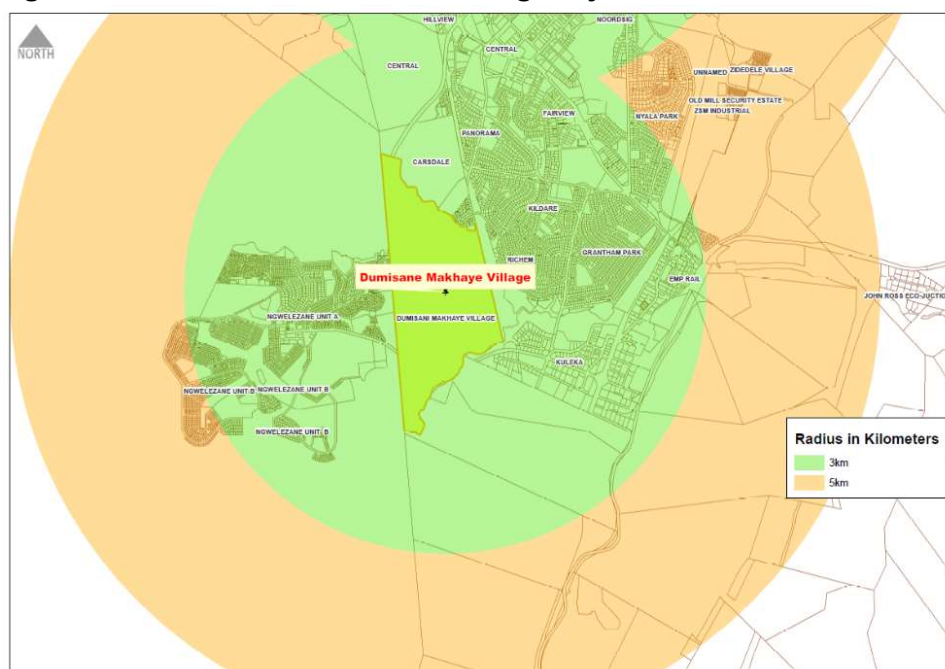
Dumisani Makhaye Village (DMV) Phase 6 and 8

The Dumisani Makhaye Village was historically an RDP project but the scope has widened to include the following human settlements programmes:

PROJECT NAME	INSTRUMENT TYPE AND HOUSING TYPOLOGIES	LINKAGE WITH GOALS INDICATORS
Dumisani Makhaye Village (DMV) Phase 6 and 8	<u>Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RDP Houses (Phase 8): 133 ○ Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) : 82 ○ Social Housing/Community Residential Units (CRU): 1270 	<p>Goal: 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.</p> <p>Goal: 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.</p> <p>Indicator: 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically.</p>

The following plan indicates the proximity of the Dumisani Makhaye Housing Project to the Empangeni CBD by way of distance radii of 3km and 5km respectively.

Figure 7: Radius around DMV Housing Project



Source: uMhlathuze Spatial Development Framework (SDF), May 2024

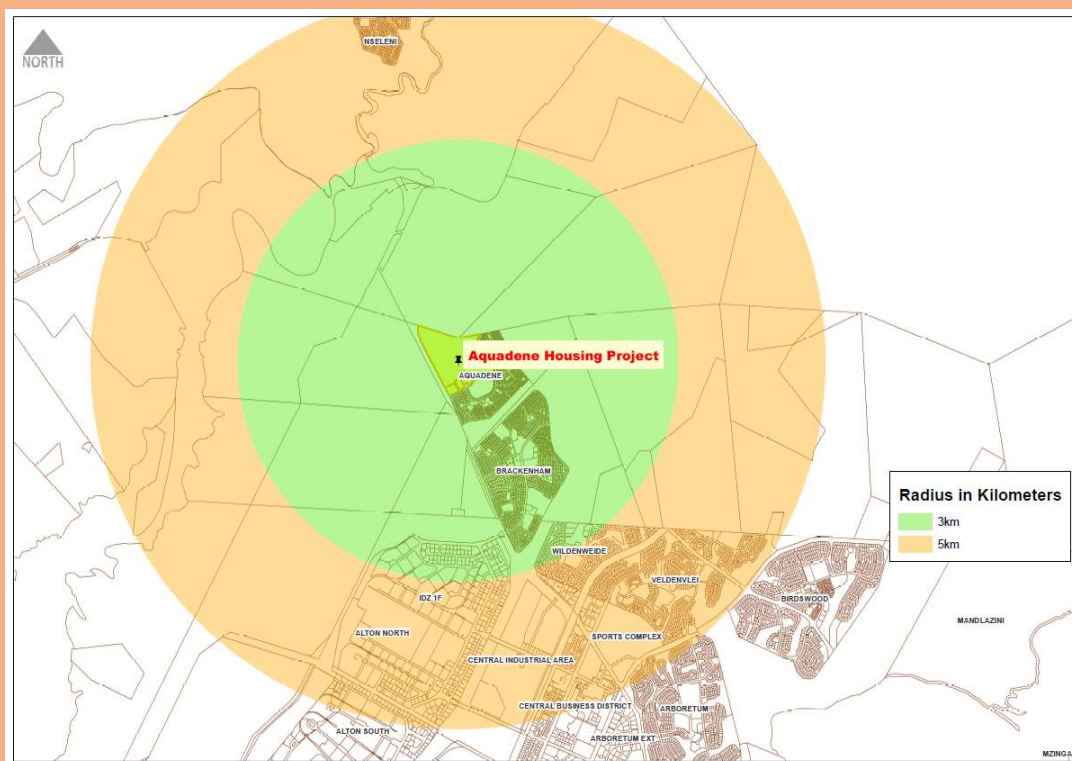
Aquadene Human Settlements Project

The Aquadene project is the main human settlement intervention in Richards Bay and is also an IRDP. The projects provide for the following housing typologies:

PROJECT NAME	INSTRUMENT TYPE AND HOUSING TYPOLOGIES	LINKAGE WITH GOALS INDICATORS
Aquadene Human Settlements	<p><u>Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RDP Houses: 615 ○ Social houses Social Housing/Community Residential Units (CRU): 1579 	<p>Goal: 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.</p> <p>Goal: 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.</p> <p>Indicator: 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically.</p>

The following plan indicates the proximity of the Aquadene Housing Project to the Empangeni CBD by way of distance radii of 3km and 5km respectively.

Figure 8: Radius around Aquadene Human Settlement Project



Source: uMhlathuze Spatial Development Framework (SDF), May 2024

Land Exchange with Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)

A Land Exchange Agreement between TNPA (Transnet National Ports Authority) and the City of uMhlathuze (CoU) was signed in 2015 and during 2022, a further addendum was signed.

In essence, the land exchange seeks to secure land transfer from the CoU to the TNPA to facilitate future port development and future navy relocation. In exchange, certain land parcels are to be transferred to the CoU, notably serviced residential sites in Aquadene.

Land Exchange with Provincial Department of Public Works

A land exchange has also been negotiated between the CoU and the Department of Public Works (DPW). Amongst others, the community of uMhlathuze stands to benefit from the proposed development of a Community Health Centre in Richards Bay (Central Industrial Area) as well as a Tertiary Hospital at Empangeni Mega Housing Development.

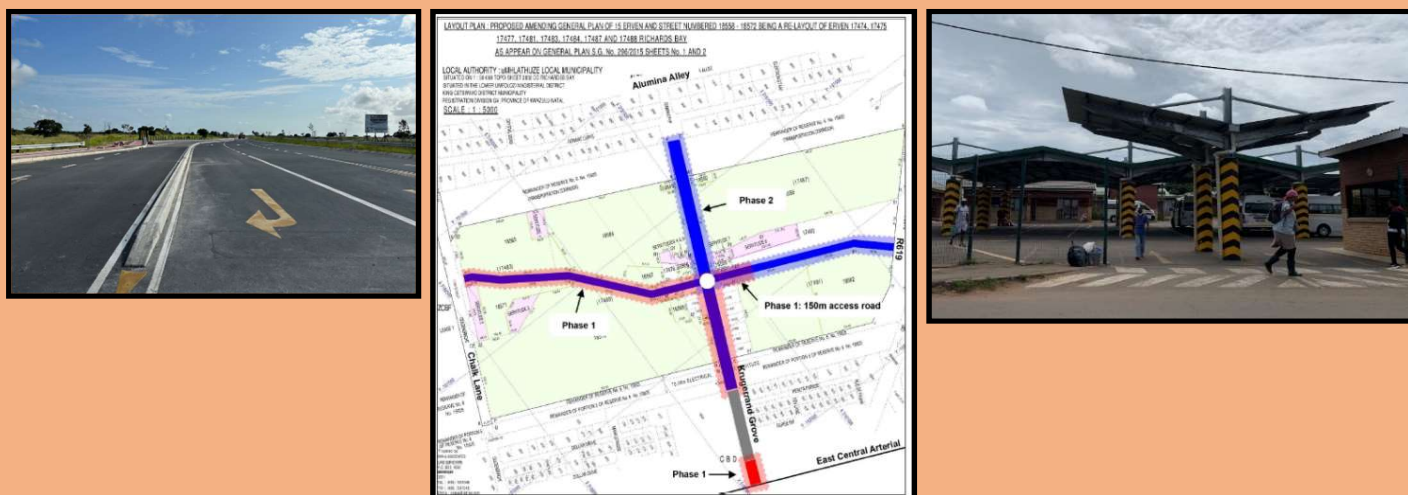
4.2 PUBLIC TRANSPORT FACILITIES AND PLANNING

The planning for and provision of public transport facilities has a pivotal role in attaining the spatial transformation target of reducing travel costs and distances. Improved public transport will also make it possible to shift jobs and investment toward dense peripheral townships and increasing urban densities while reducing urban sprawl. The positive climate impacts to the increased use of public transport are also significant.

In uMhlathuze, a number of initiatives are underway (or have been completed) in respect of the planning and improvement of public transport facilities, notably:

- i. Compilation of a CITP (Comprehensive Integrated Transport Plan).
- ii. Phase approach to the establishment of the Richards Bay Multi-modal facility precinct. The precinct has many components, including SMME support activities and upgrade of the bus and taxi rank facilities. The latter has been undertaken with the road construction of the CIA (Central Industrial Area) road links and also in the context of major private sector investment in a new shopping mall on the property.
- iii. The CIA road link is creating a functional, and sustainable, link between industrial and service industrial area.
- iv. Developable land is being made accessible in the CIA by the road link and servicing of the land is undertaken.
- v. Apart from the ongoing planning and development of the precinct in Richards Bay, planning is underway for the upgrade of the Empangeni A and Empangeni B ranks as well.

Figure 9: Initiatives to Support Public Transport

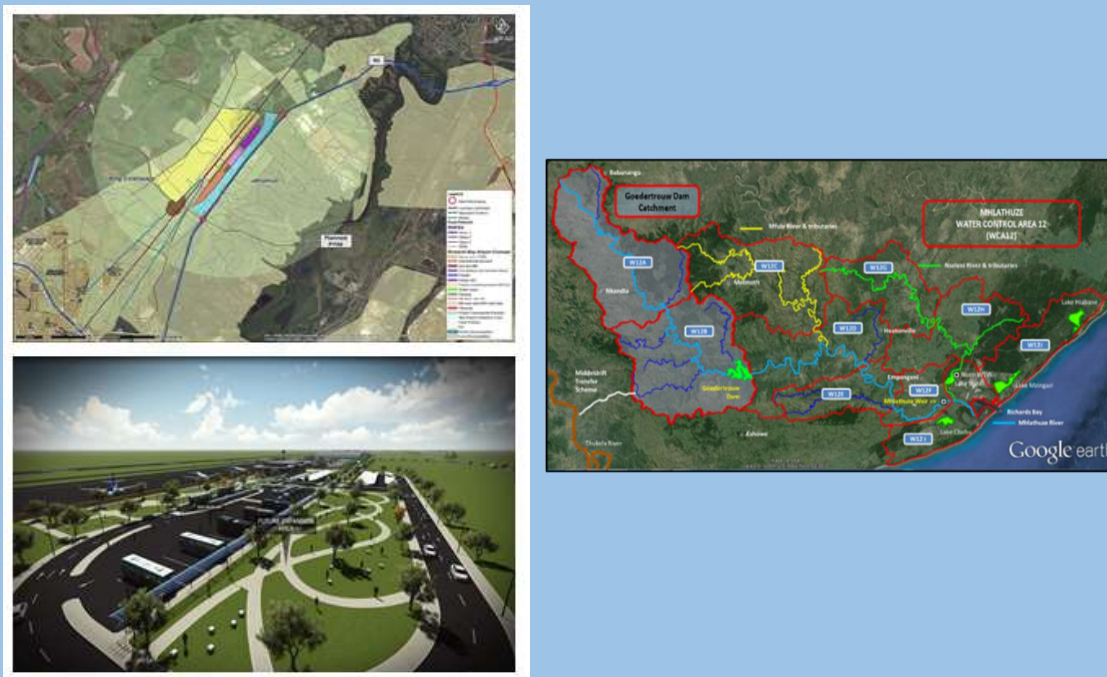


4.3 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

The Municipality has been pursuing a number of ways to achieve the above and these include PPPs as procurement methods, the provision of critical and economic infrastructure, acquiring and servicing of strategic land parcels as well as stimulating the economy and economic regeneration.

The Municipality has embarked on two PPP processes to facilitate the development of two catalytic project namely the Proposed Richards Bay Airport Relocation and Redevelopment as well as the Waste Water Re-Use. In both instances, Phase 1: Feasibility has been completed and Phase 2: Procurement is the next step.

Figure 10: Municipal PPP Projects



Examples of the provision of critical and economic infrastructure in uMhlathuze include the recently completed 132kV Hydra Capella Cable construction to assure supply to the Richards Bay Coal Terminal (RBCT), Bidvest Tank Terminals, Engen as well as the Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) with the value of more than R100 million. Also, the development of the Richards Bay Multi-Modal Precinct is underway with the ongoing investment into strategic link roads, the upgrade of the public transport facility as well as SMME park development.

Apart from acquiring (and initiating the process to acquire) strategic land parcels – such as needed for the airport relocation, detailed planning has been completed and/or is underway as a precursor to development and servicing strategic land parcels. Detailed planning has been done for the development of the Richards Bay CBD South as well as the Greater Waterfront area. In addition, statutory processes are also at an advanced stage to enable development in Mzingazi and specifically the Mzingazi Commercial Node.

An example of Economic Regeneration is the Empangeni CBD Revitalization project that is underway to attain for Empangeni the following vision: Liveable, safe, resource-efficient cities and towns that are socially integrated, economically inclusive and globally competitive, where residents actively participate in urban life. Interventions by Council includes various climate proofing initiatives, investing in the public realm, public transport interventions etc.

Figure 11: Empangeni Revitalization Interventions



Reference has already been made to the Waterfront project. More specifically, the intention is to development the Waterfront Area that will deliver a place for maritime industries, education and businesses, local and international port activities, as well as recreation. A number of interventions are planned for the Greater Waterfront area, including:

- Steel Bridge Redevelopment
- The Ridge Development
- Richards Bay ICC

Figure 12: Planning for the Richards Bay Waterfront



5. SDG SELECTION FOR REPORTING

Reporting on an SDG (and its associated indicators) can only take place if suitable data is readily available. It was therefore proposed to the uMhlathuze Council that preliminary set SDGs be identified to initiate the process of reporting (VLR) on SDGs for uMhlathuze. As it is not required for a Municipality to report on all the indicators; indicators to report on should be relevant to our service delivery mandate and existing reporting frameworks such as the SDBIP (Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan). It also motivated to Council that only a few indicators be selected to report on and create a level of confidence in the process and the foundation for reporting to grow as access to more datasets, that are relevant to our service delivery mandate, is facilitated.

In context of the above, the uMhlathuze Council resolved as follow on 7 December 2023:

- “1. to inform Council of the Municipality’s participation in the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) Programme;
2. to provide report back on the Capacity Building Workshops that have taken place to date;
3. to confirm which SDGs Council proposes to report on during this initial stage of the VLR process, notably SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy as well as SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and
4. to updated Council on the progress with regards to the above and any changes that become necessary during the process of developing the first VLR for the Municipality.”

Figure 13: Extract of Council Resolutions



<p>16844 PARTICIPATION OF uMHLATHUZE MUNICIPALITY IN THE LOCALISATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) THROUGH VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS (VLR) PROGRAMME</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to inform Council of the Municipality’s participation in the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) Programme; to provide report back on the Capacity Building Workshops that have taken place to date; to confirm which SDGs Council proposes to report on during this initial stage of the VLR process, notably SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy as well as SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and to updated Council on the progress with regards to the above and any changes that become necessary during the process of developing the first VLR for the Municipality. <p>CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES</p> <p>Civic Centre c/o Mark Strasse and Lira Link CBD Richards Bay (DMS 1642876 -PF)</p> <p> MR M B SIBIYA DEPUTY CITY MANAGER: CORPORATE SERVICES</p>	<p>17098 LOCALISATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) THROUGH VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS (VLR) PROGRAMME: SUBMISSION OF FIRST VLR BASELINE REPORT BY UMHLATHUZE MUNICIPALITY</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the feedback report on Council’s participation in the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Programme be noted; Council supports that reporting on SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Growth) be prioritised for future VLR reports; the First VLR Baseline Report (DMS 1669238) for the uMhlathuze Municipality for submission to the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the National Planning Commission (NPC) by 14 June 2024 be approved; and in the event of additional information/data applicable being sourced for the indicators in this First VLR Baseline Report (DMS 1669238), the report be updated accordingly prior to submission on 14 June 2024 to the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the National Planning Commission (NPC). <p>CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES.</p> <p>Civic Centre c/o Mark Strasse and Lira Link CBD Richards Bay (DMS1674499-hndm)</p> <p> MR M B SIBIYA DEPUTY CITY MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES:</p>
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Figure 14: SDGs selected during 2023 for uMhlathuze VLR Reporting



On 25 May 2024, the uMhlathuze Council considered its First Baseline Report and further resolved, “that reporting on SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Growth) be prioritised for future VLR reports”. The reason being that the uMhlathuze Municipality has pursued a number of successful partnerships towards attaining its developmental mandate (SDG 17) and is also actively pursuing Climate Change (SDG 13) activities and related initiatives that warrant reporting.

In this report, the baseline is provided for reporting on SDGs 13 and 17 going forward.

Figure 15: Additional SDGs for uMhlathuze VLR Reporting



The remainder of this chapter will provide baseline reporting on the selected 6 SDGs as well as some narrative on activities/initiatives relevant to the specific SDG as well as some historic trends – subject to data availability.

5.1 GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The targets and associated indicators being reporting on for the above goal by the City of uMhlathuze are as follow:

Table 4: SDG 6 Targets and Indicators for reporting

Target Nr.	Target Description	Indicator Nr.	Indicator Description
6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1	Proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services.
6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the neds of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	6.2.1	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water

5.1.1 Indicator 6.1.1 - Access to safely managed drinking water

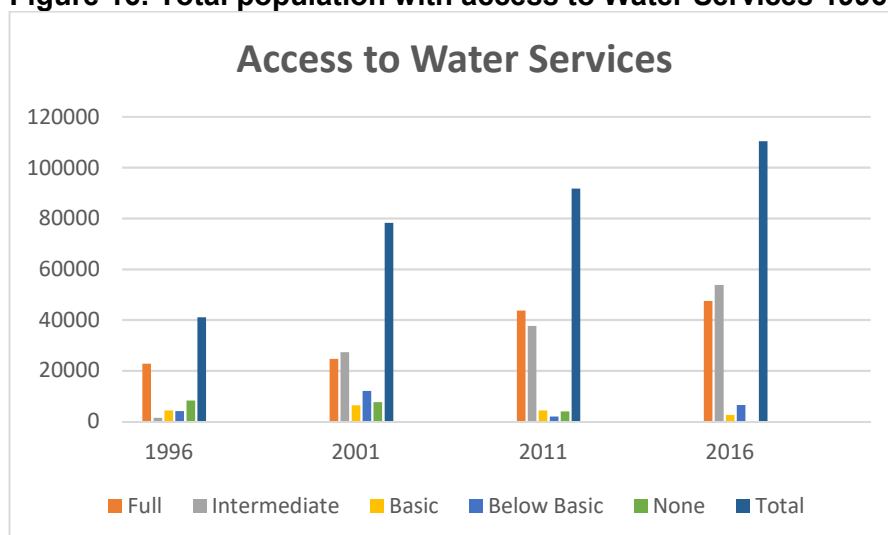
Water services have been a very high priority in service delivery strategies over the past two decades for the Municipality. One of the critical Millennium Development Goals (MDG) adopted back in 2000 stated that countries should aim to halve people's proportion without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. At least 50% of households should have access to at least basic services for these goals. The table below shows the access to water has changed between 1996 and 2016.

Table 5: Access to Water Services 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2016

		Full	Intermediate	Basic	Below Basic	None	Total
1996	Total	22 808	1 464	4 402	4 114	8 312	41 100
	%	55.49 %	3.56 %	10.71 %	10.01 %	20.22%	100 %
2001	Total	24 742	27 285	6 452	12 125	7 648	78 252
	%	31.62 %	34.87 %	8.24 %	15.50 %	9.77 %	100 %
2011	Total	43 673	37 726	4 384	1 995	3 988	91 767
	%	47.59 %	41.11 %	4.78 %	2.17 %	4.35 %	100 %
2016	Total	47 491	53 754	2 590	6 492	129	110 456
	%	43.00 %	48.67 %	2.34 %	5.88 %	0.12 %	100%

Source: uMhlathuze IDP, 2024

Figure 16: Total population with access to Water Services 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2016



The City of uMhlathuze consists of urban, peri-urban and dense settlements as such the level of service is consistently improving to ensure provision of at least a basic level of service to consumers in its area of jurisdiction. The current levels of service is as follows:

1. Full Water service - refers to the population that has access to piped water within their building.
2. Intermediate Water service - refers to areas that have access to piped water within their yard.
3. Basic Water service - refers to the population that utilizes communal standpipes less than 200m distance.
4. Below Basic Water service – refers to the population that utilizes communal standpipes more than 200m distance.
5. None – refers to the population that does not have access to water services.

The situation with regard to access to the listed services as per the Census 2022 results is provided herewith.

Table 6: Water Services by Households (2022)

	Households
Piped (tap) water inside the dwelling	58241
Piped (tap) water inside the yard	35101
Piped (tap) water on community stand: distance less than 200m from dwelling	1845
Piped (tap) water to community stand: distance <i>between</i> 200m and 500m from dwelling	681
Piped (tap) water to community stand: distance <i>between</i> 500m and 1000m from dwelling	215
Piped (tap) water on community stand: distance greater than 1000m (1 km) from dwelling	104
No access to piped (tap) water	4252
Total	100441

Source: SuperCross, 2022

The majority of households have access to a regional or local water scheme or boreholes. Very few households in the Municipality rely on water vendors/tanks or natural water sources. Also, majority of the households in the municipal area have access to piped water either inside the dwelling/yard or within 200m from the dwelling. However, there is a high number of households that do not have access to any form of piped water.

Baseline for Indicator 6.1.1 (Access to Safely managed drinking water):

95 187 out of 100 441 households have access (at an acceptable standard) to safely managed drinking water that relates to 94,7%

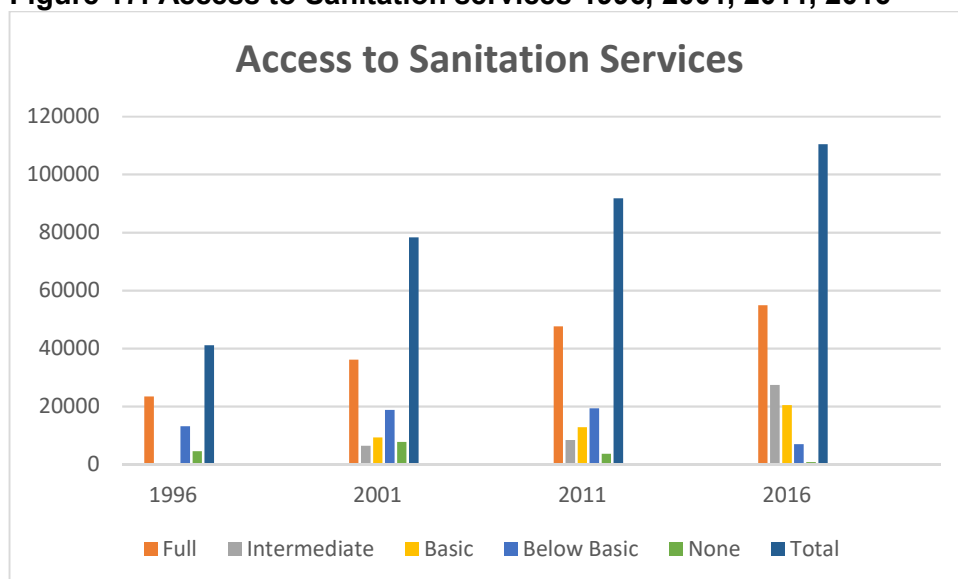
5.1.2 Indicator 6.2.1 - Access to safely managed sanitation services

Access to appropriate sanitation services is a very high health priority. Although sanitation services receive a high priority from the government, there are challenges and this service has not achieved the same level of success as improved access to water services.

Table 7: Access to sanitation services 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2016

		Full	Intermediate	Basic	Below Basic	None	Total
1996	Total	23 391	NA	NA	13 161	4 548	41 100
	%	56.91 %	NA	NA	32.02 %	11.07 %	100 %
2001	Total	36 072	6 405	9 229	18 783	7 763	78 252
	%	46.10 %	8.19 %	11.79 %	24.00 %	9.92 %	100 %
2011	Total	47 598	8 426	12 756	19 310	3 677	91 767
	%	51.87 %	9.18 %	13.90 %	21.04 %	4.01 %	100 %
2016	Total	54 895	27 427	20 426	6 951	757	110 456
	%	49.70 %	24.83 %	18.49 %	6.29 %	0.69 %	100 %

Source: uMhlathuze IDP, 2024

Figure 17: Access to Sanitation services 1996, 2001, 2011, 2016

The City of uMhlathuze consists of urban, peri-urban and dense settlements as such the level of service is consistently improving to ensure provision of at least a basic level of service to consumers in its area of jurisdiction. The current levels of service is as follows

1. Full Sanitation services – refers to the population that has access to waterborne sewerage to each stand with a toilet structure.
2. Intermediate Sanitation services – refers to the population that has access to waterborne sewerage to each stand with no toilet structure.
3. Basic Sanitation services – refers to the population that utilizes communal toilet systems.
4. Below Basic Sanitation services – refers to the population that utilizes the bucket system / pit latrines.
5. None – refers to the population that does not have access to sanitation services.

Table 8: Access to Sanitation by Households (2022)

	Households
Flush toilet connected to a public sewerage system	58198
Flush toilet connected to a septic tank or conservancy tank	4602
Chemical toilet	7732
Pit latrine/toilet with ventilation pipe (VIP)	20599
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe	8042
Ecological toilet	64
Bucket toilet (collected by municipality)	22
Bucket toilet (emptied by household)	131
None	661
Other	390
Total	100441

Source: SuperCross 2022

The majority of households have access to an acceptable standard of sanitation services, notably a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system or septic/conservancy tank, a chemical toilet or a pit latrine/toilet with ventilation.

Baseline for Indicator 6.2.1 (Access to Safely managed sanitation services):
91 131 out of 100 441 households have access (at an acceptable standard) to safely management sanitation services that relates to 90,7%

5.2 GOAL 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

The targets and associated indicators being reporting on for the above goal by the City of uMhlathuze are as follow:

Table 9: SDG 7 Targets and Indicators for reporting

Target Nr.	Target Description	Indicator Nr.	Indicator Description	
7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity	
		7D1	<i>Proportion of Households in licensed municipal supply area using metered municipal supply of electricity</i>	

5.2.1 Indicator 7.1.1 - Proportion of population with access to electricity

Although electricity does not have the same implications for the community health as water and sanitation provision, access to electricity is very important for economic development and especially education. Access to electricity therefore remains a high priority. The table below shows how access to electricity has changed since 1996. This table is informed by access to lighting as a proxy for access to electricity.

Table 10: Access to electricity services for lighting 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2016

		Full access	Intermediate access	No access	Total
1996	Total	30 831	NA	10 269	41 100
	%	75.01 %	NA	24.99 %	100 %
2001	Total	66 354	NA	11 899	78 252
	%	84.79 %	NA	15.21 %	100 %
2011	Total	85 604	NA	6 163	91 767
	%	93.28 %	NA	6.72 %	100 %
2016	Total	109 158	68	1 229	110 456
	%	98.83 %	0.06 %	1.11 %	100 %

Source: uMhlathuze IDP, 2024

The situation with regard to access to the listed services as per the Census 2022 results is provided hereunder.

Table 11: Energy for Fuel for Cooking by Households (2022)

	Households
Electricity from mains	77091
Other source of electricity (e.g. generator etc.)	251
Gas	21700
Paraffin	92
Wood	1140
Animal dung	3
Coal	27
Solar	6
Other	33
None	98
Total	100441

Source: SuperCross 2022

Table 12: Energy for Fuel for Lighting by Household (2022)

	Households
Electricity from mains	99409
Other source of electricity (e.g. generator etc.)	178
Gas	145
Paraffin	42
Candles	498
Solar	29
Other	51
None	88
Total	100440

Source: SuperCross 2022

The majority of households have access to electricity from mains as an energy source for lighting as per the 2022 Census.

Baseline for Indicator 7.1.1 (Access to Electricity):

99 409 out of 100 441 households have access (electricity from mains) for lighting that relates to 98,9%

5.2.2 Indicator 7D1 - Proportion of households in licensed municipal supply area using metered municipal supply of electricity

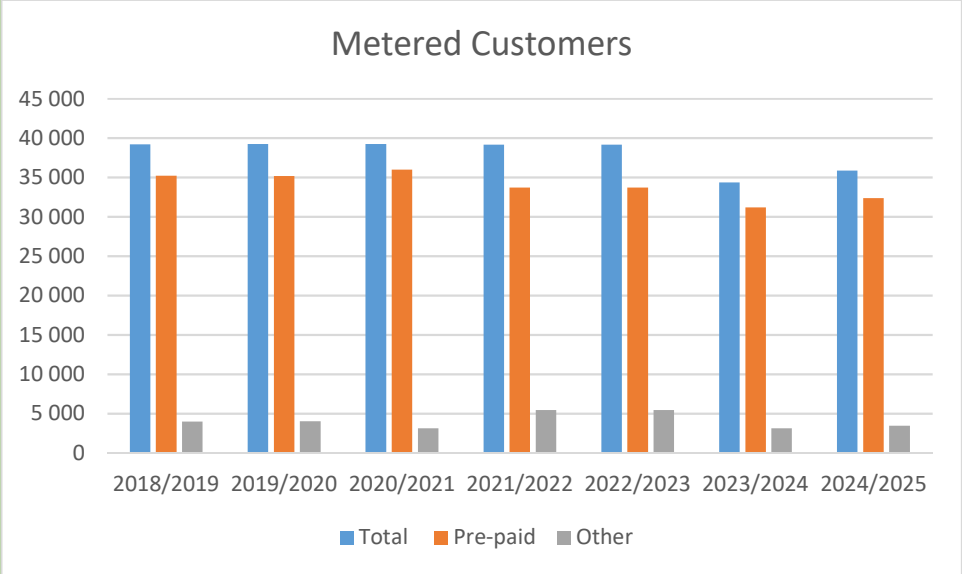
The uMhlathuze municipal area has two license distributors, namely Eskom and the City of uMhlathuze. The following table and figure provides details on the supply of electrical services to metered customers by the City of uMhlathuze over a five-year time horizon.

Table 13: Proportion of Households in licensed municipal supply area using metered municipal supply of electricity

Period	Customers			
	Total	Pre-paid	Other	
2018/2019	39 198	35 204	3 994	10%
2019/2020	39 234	35 178	4 056	10%
2020/2021	39 234	36 007	3 157	8%
2021/2022	39 171	33 700	5 471	14%
2022/2023	39 171	33 700	5 471	14%
2023/2024	34 352	31 196	3 156	9%
2024/2025	35 872	32 382	3 490	10%

Source: uMhlathuze Annual Report, 2023/2024

Figure 18: Proportion of Households in licensed municipal supply area using metered municipal supply of electricity



Baseline for Indicator 7D1 (Proportion of Households in licensed municipal supply area using metered municipal supply of electricity):
In 2024/2025 a total of 32 382 out of 35 872 were using metered municipal supply of electricity that relates to 90%

In Table 13 it is presented that there has been a slight decline in households using the licensed municipal supply area using metered municipal supply of electricity from between 2020/2021 and 2023/2024 but in the last year (2024/2025) there has been a slight increase. One of the contributing factors could be an increase in the number of households that have opted for off-grid electricity options in the context of ongoing loadshedding. It is valuable to compare the above indicator to the number of off-grid electricity options being reverted to by households in the municipal supply area.

5.3 GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The targets and associated indicators being reporting on for the above goal by the City of uMhlatuze are as follow

Table 14: SDG 11 Targets and Indicators for reporting

Target Nr.	Target Description	Indicator Nr.	Indicator Description
11.1	Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing.
11.6	Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	11.6.1	Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out total urban solid waste generated, by city
		11.6.2	Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in city (population weighted)

5.3.1 Indicator 11.1.1 - Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

According to the 2016 Community Survey there were approximately 103 915 households in the uMhlathuze municipal area, out of that 92 812 households were residing in formal dwellings, 6 697 are traditional dwellings, 4 315 in informal, and 511 other. Data from the community survey does not indicate the quality of these households but from the statistics it is clear that a substantial number of households are presumed to be substandard (i.e. informal & traditional).

The majority of these informal settlements are located in Traditional Authority areas. Traditional Authority areas are considered as the areas of greatest need in relation to informal settlements upgrade and slums clearance projects. A rural housing project feasibility study determined that the Buchanana area has 1 349 households and Luwamba 467 households in need of suitable housing.

Table 15: Dwelling Type

Local municipality	Main dwelling							
	2011				2016			
	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Other
KZN282: uMhlathuze	76 478	6 836	2 568	727	92 812	6 697	4 315	511

Source: Community Survey, 2016

From the above table, it is noted that there has been an increase in the number of formal dwellings between 2011 and 2016. This increase can in part be attributed to population growth and in-migration.

There have been ongoing efforts by the Municipality to undertake assessment and responsive planning to address informal challenges in the municipal area. To this end, informal settlement upgrade plans were prepared for the following settlements:

1. uMzingwenya River settlement
2. Bhejane/Khoza (Nseleni) Traditional Authority areas
3. Mzingazi Agri-Village and Buffer Strip settlement
4. Mandlazini Agri-Village and Buffer Strip settlement
5. Mkhwanazi (Vulindlela) Traditional Authority areas
6. Ngwelezane Hospital
7. Vulindlela

It is estimated that there are at least 1800 households living in the uMzingwenya River Settlement area within the 1:100 year floodline, therefore the informal settlement may well be regarded as the Municipalities largest disaster area with respect to the flood risks.

The Nseleni settlement situated on the outskirts of Nseleni Township has a number of households situated close to the 100 year floodline and some are built on steep terrain. Essentially, the settlement is found to consist of varying residential dwellings ranging from:

The Mandlazini-Airport Buffer Strip measures approximately **65 hectares** in extent and according to a November 2011 survey, there was approximately **500 residential structures** in the buffer strip. Some of the structures are of an informal/temporary nature while other structures are formal. Amongst other

interventions, it is essential that an appropriate sanitation solution is provided to the community of Mandlazini as the Village borders one of the main fresh water sources in the municipal area, Lake Mzingazi.

The proportion of the uMhlathuze urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing according to the 2022 survey is as follow:

Table 16: Main Type of Dwelling in uMhlathuze (2022)

	Households
Formal dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm	91675
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	2009
Flat or apartment in a block of flats/flat or apartment in a block of flats in a complex	3288
Cluster house in complex	227
Town house (semi-detached house in complex)	291
Semi-detached house	504
Formal dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard/servants quarters/granny flat/cottage	1431
Informal dwelling/shack in back yard	395
Informal dwelling/shack not in backyard	383
Caravan/tent	9
Other	228
Not applicable	-
Total	100440

Source: SuperCross 2022

Baseline for Indicator 11.1.1 (Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing):
3 024 out of 100 440 households are living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing that relates to 3%

A housing needs assessment is underway in the City of uMhlathuze and is nearing completion. Relevant results will be provide as available and it should be noted that such an assessment will be subject to ongoing update and review.

5.3.2 Indicator 11.6.1 - Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out total urban solid waste generated by the city

Apart from solid waste collection, the uMhlathuze Municipality has programmes in place and supports initiatives aimed at the recovering and recycling of waste. The recyclables accounted for mainly include papers, cardboards, cans, plastics and glass bottles. The percentage of waste recovered has remained above 23% over the last 5 years as indicated in the following table:

Table 17: Percentage of Recovered/Recycled Waste

Year	Waste Landfilled	Recycled in tons	Total Waste	Average % min
2023/2024	20 572 850	6 422 662	26 997 510	24%
2022/2023	36 589 957	8 380 944	47 617 372	23.25%
2021/2022	44 636 806	13 150 007	57 786 813	25.64%
2020/2021	46 116 260	12 114 664	58 230 924	26.29%
2019/2020	47 521 937	11 077 884	55 649 821	23.1%

Source: uMhlathuze IDP, 2024

The following waste collection statistics have been published for uMhlathuze Municipality as part of the 2022 Census results.

Table 18: Household Waste Collection (2022)

	Households
Removed by local authority/private company/community members at least once a week	55541
Removed by local authority/private company/community members less often	1772
Communal refuse dump	4056
Communal container/central collection point	6737
Own refuse dump	29215
Dump or leave rubbish anywhere (no rubbish disposal)	2505
Other	615
Total	100441

Source: SuperCross 2022

In context of the above, suitable waste collection groupings are: removed by local authority once a week, removed by local authority less often, communal container/central collection point. The following baseline has been determined accordingly:

Baseline for Indicator 11.6.1 (Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out total urban solid waste generated by the city):
64 050 out of 100 440 households have urban solid waste regularly collected that relates to 63,7%

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

Air quality management is one of essential elements to achieve the objectives of Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

In an attempt to fulfil the objectives of Target 11.6 to reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, the City of uMhlathuze commits resources to air quality management.

There are currently thirteen (13) Air Quality Management Stations within the Municipal area of jurisdiction. These stations are located in the following areas within the jurisdiction of the municipality as per the following details:



Municipal Air Quality Management Owned Stations

- Brackenham: Brackenham Cemetery
- Arboretum Water Treatment Plant
- Esikhaleni: Municipal Library
- Civic Centre: Richards Bay CBD

Richards Bay Clean Air Association (RBCAA) Air Quality Management Owned Stations

- Richards Bay: Arboretum, Brackenham; Scorpio Substation; Harbour West, Sports Complex and Airport.
- Esikhaleni
- Nseleni
- Felixton

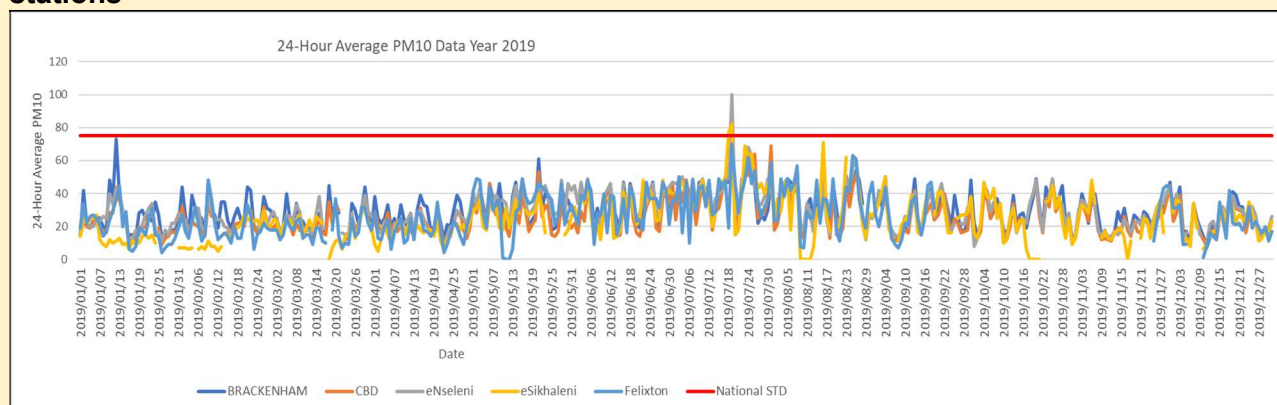
Air quality data in the form of daily PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ levels are measured from the following five (5) Air Quality Management Stations owned by the Richards Bay Clean Air Association (RBCAA):

- Brackenham
- Esikhaleni
- Scorpio Substation
- Richards Bay Sports Complex
- Felixton

PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} Data taken from RBCAA Stations

The following series of graphs provide data for PM₁₀ for the five year period from 2019 – 2023 while PM_{2.5} data is provided from 2021 – 2023.

Figure 19: PM₁₀ Data Measured in 2019 at Brackenham, CBD, eNseleni, eSikhaleni and Felixton stations

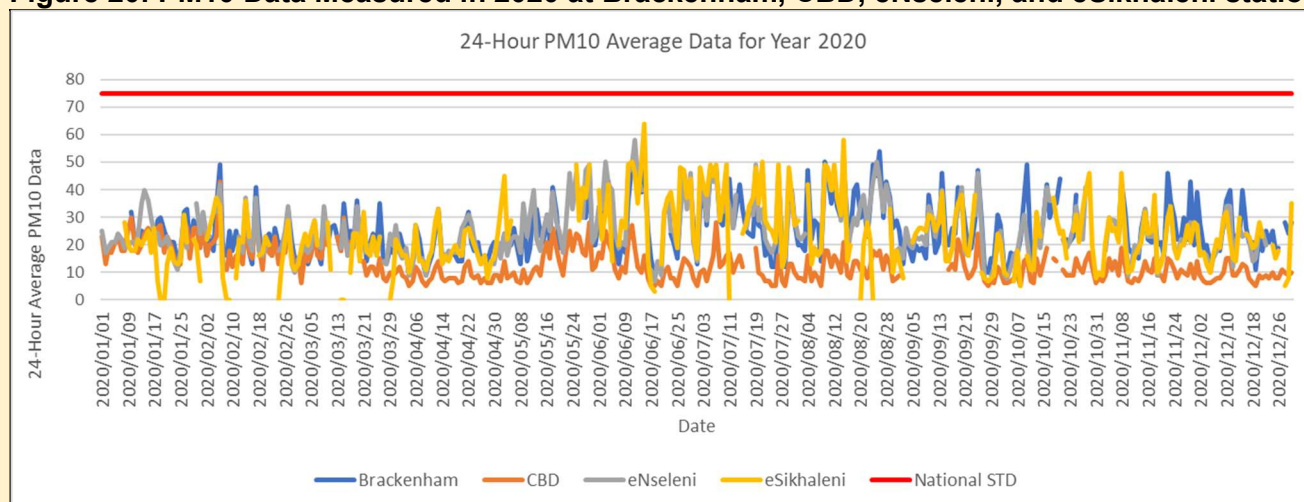


Source: Richards Bay Clean Air Association (2024)

There were two exceedances of the 24-hour average PM₁₀ National Ambient Air Quality Standard (75 µg/m³) that occurred on 19 July 2019 during the year 2019 at eNseleni and eSikhaleni stations respectively.



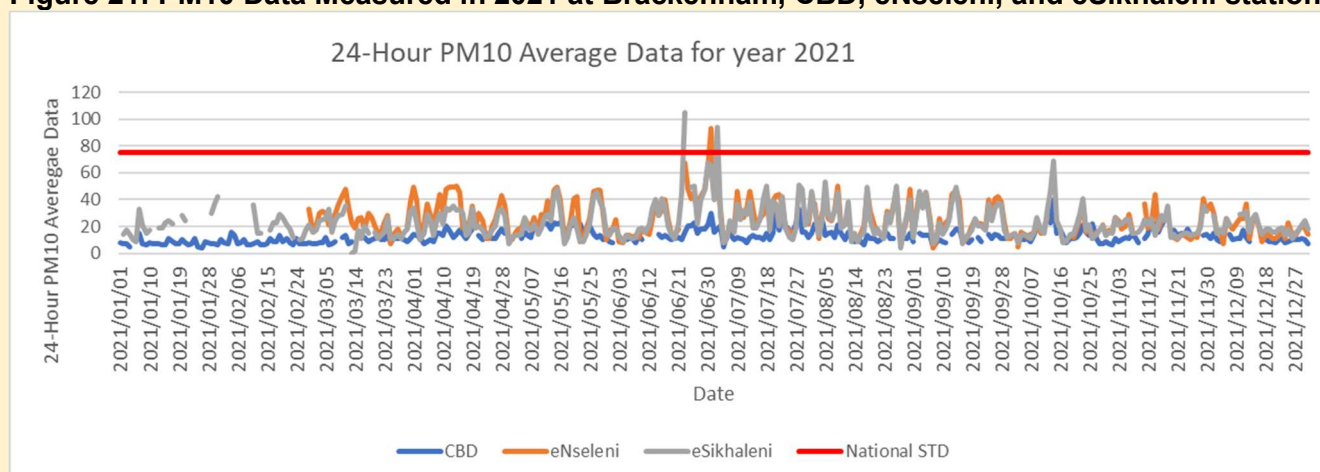
Figure 20: PM10 Data Measured in 2020 at Brackenham, CBD, eNseleni, and eSikhaleni stations



Source: Richards Bay Clean Air Association (2024)

There were no exceedances of the 24-hour average PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard ($75 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) during the year 2020 for all stations.

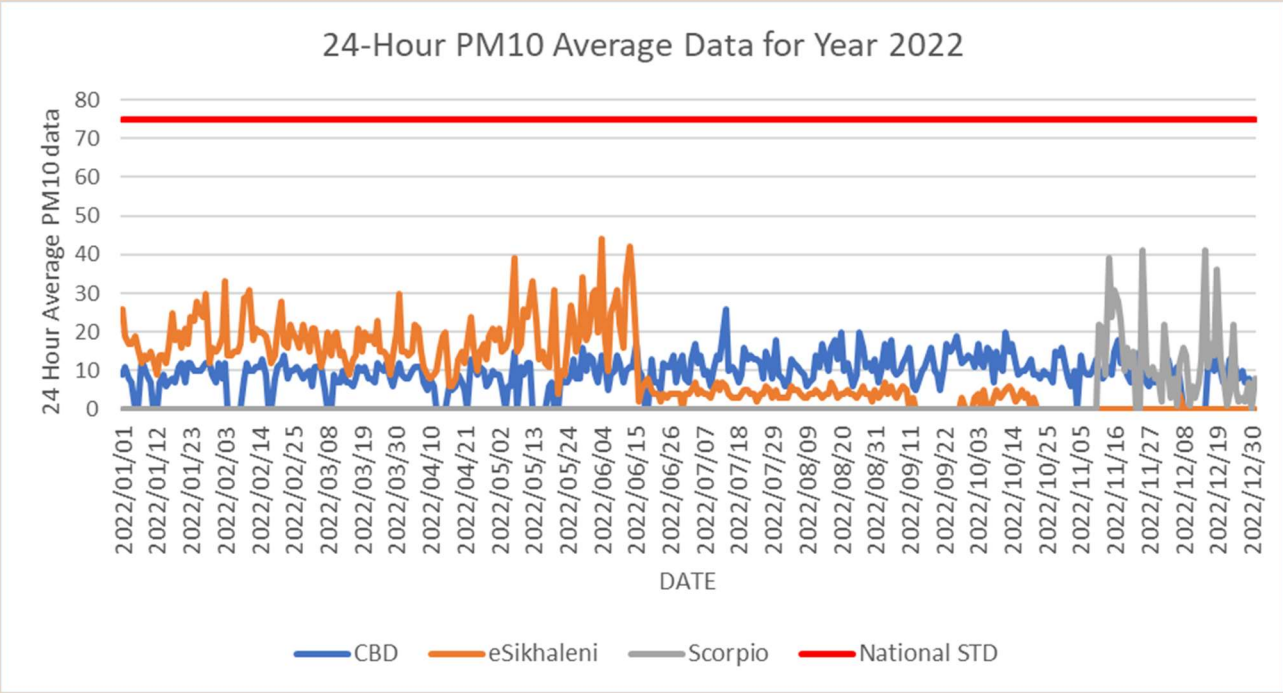
Figure 21: PM10 Data Measured in 2021 at Brackenham, CBD, eNseleni, and eSikhaleni stations



Source: Richards Bay Clean Air Association (2024)

There were two exceedances of the 24-hour average PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard ($75 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) that occurred on 21 June 2021 and 03 July 2021 during the year 2021 at eSikhaleni station.

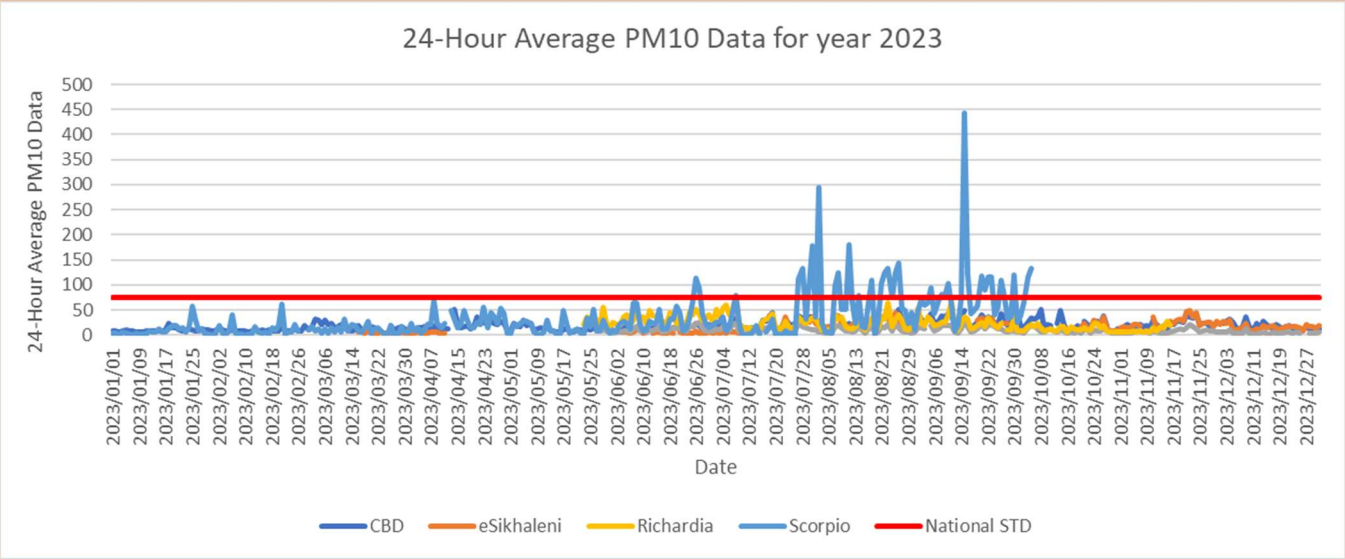
Figure 22: PM10 Data Measured in 2022 at Brackenham, CBD, eNseleni, and eSikhaleni stations



Source: Richards Bay Clean Air Association (2024)

There were no exceedances of the 24-hour average PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) during the year 2022 for all stations.

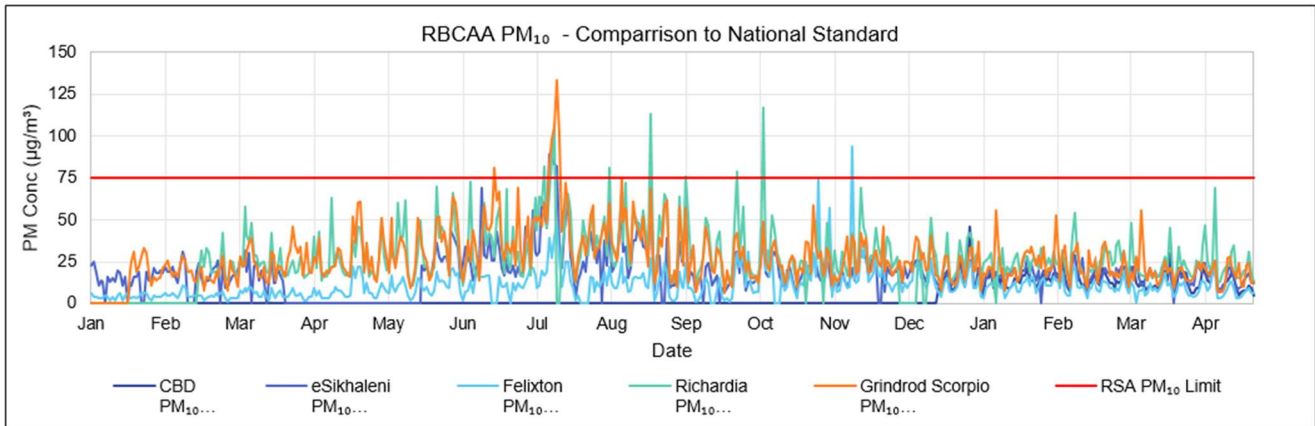
Figure 23: PM10 Data Measured in 2023 at CBD, eSikhaleni, Richardia and Scorpio stations



Source: Richards Bay Clean Air Association (2024)

There were thirty-two (32) exceedances of the 24-hour average PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) during the year 2023 at Scorpio station. The exceedances were due to the NCT fire incident. This impacted negatively to the whole of Richards Bay.

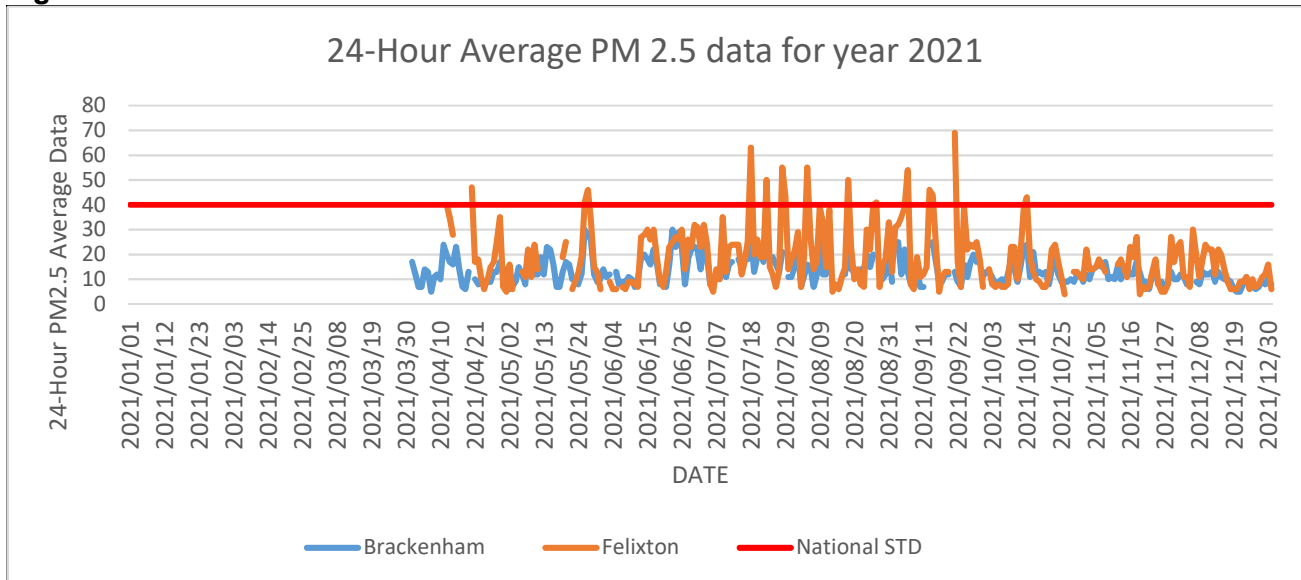
Figure 24: PM10 Data Measures from January 2024 to April 2025 at CBD, Esikhaleni, Felixton, Richardia and Scorpio



Source: Richards Bay Clean Air Association (2025)

There was a total nineteen (19) exceedances of the 24-hour average PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) during the reporting period at Esikhaleni, Felixton, Richardia and Grindrod Scorpio with the most being measured at Richardia, namely eight (8).

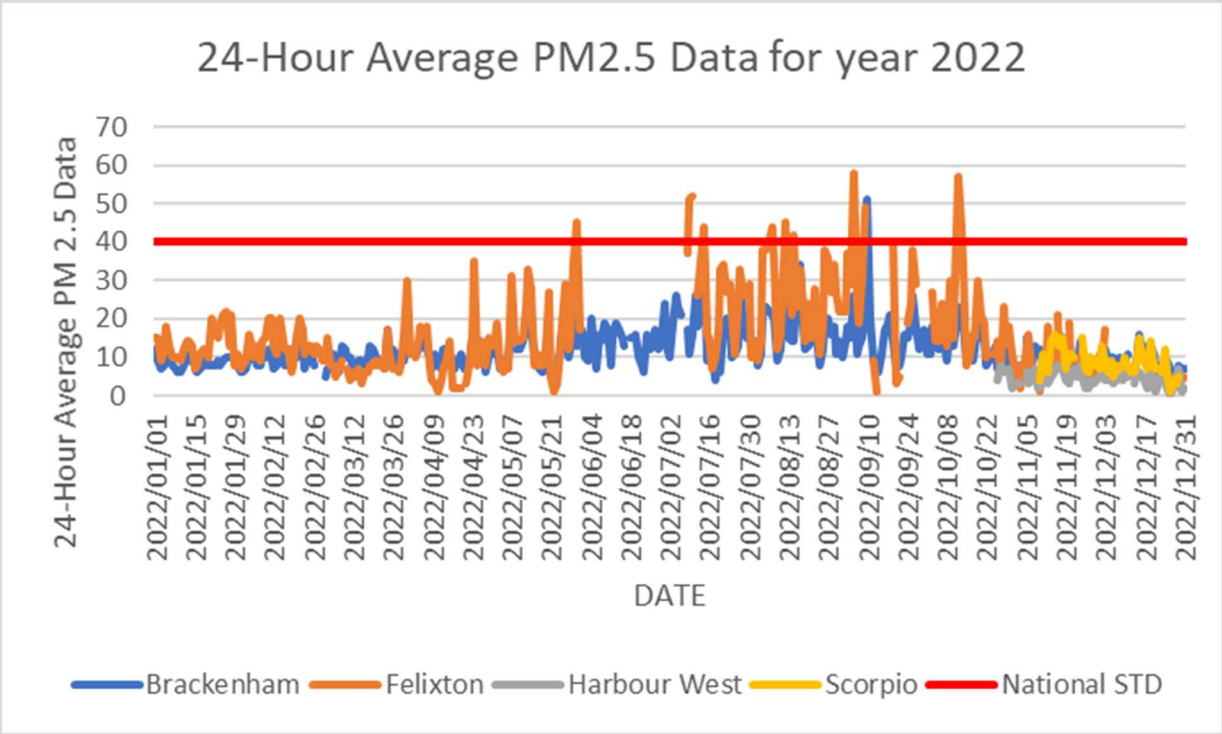
Figure 25: PM2.5 Data Measured in 2021 at Brackenham and Felixton stations



Source: Richards Bay Clean Air Association (2024)

There were fifteen (15) exceedances of the 24-hour average PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) during the year 2021 at Felixton station.

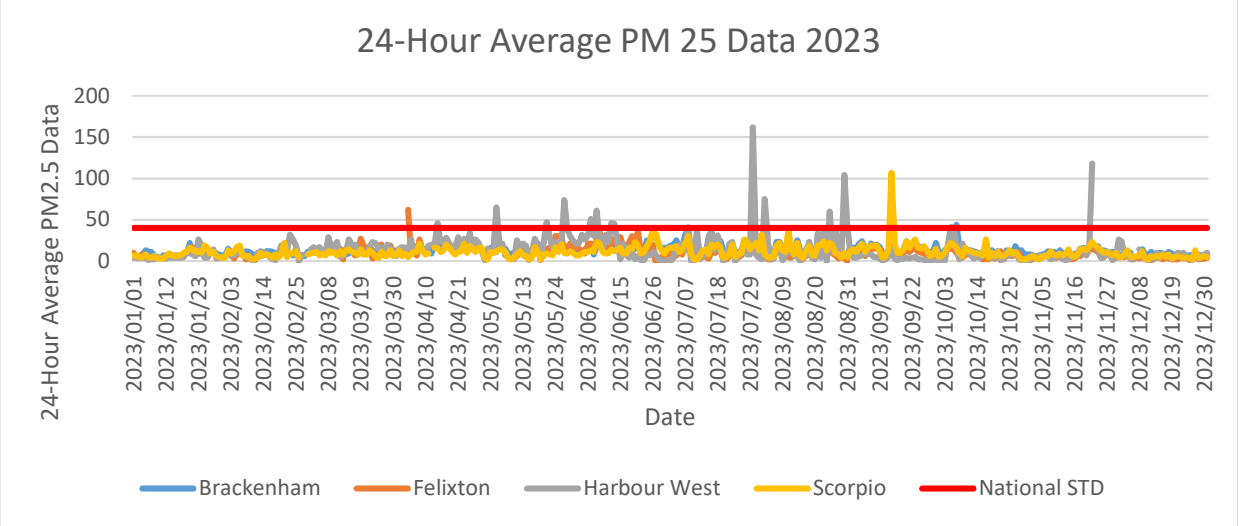
Figure 26: PM2.5 Data Measured in 2022 at Brackenham and Felixton stations



Source: Richards Bay Clean Air Association (2024)

There were four (4) exceedances of the 24-hour average PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (40 µg/m³) during the year 2022 at Felixton and Brackenham stations respectively.

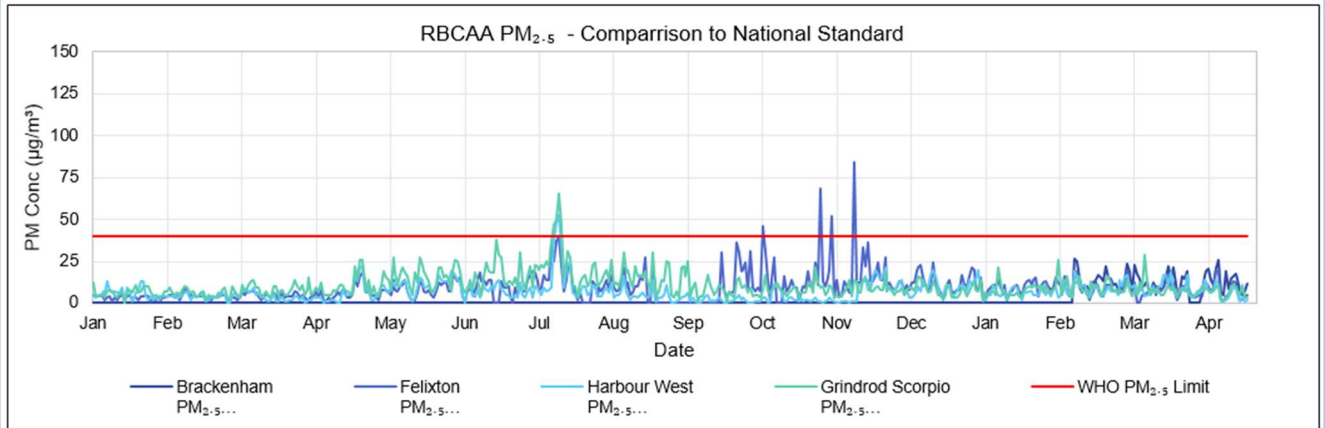
Figure 27: PM2.5 Data Measured in 2023 at Brackenham and Felixton stations



Source: Richards Bay Clean Air Association (2024)

There were seventeen (17) exceedances of the 24-hour average PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (40 µg/m³) during the year 2023 at Felixton Brackenham and Harbour West stations respectively.

Figure 28: PM2.5 Data Measured from January 2024 to April 2025 at Brackenham, Felixton, Harbour West and Scorpio



Source: Richards Bay Clean Air Association (2025)

There was a total of ten (10) exceedances of the 24-hour average PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (40 µg/m³) during the reporting period at Felixton, Harbour West and Grindrod Scorpio with Felixton and Grindrod each reporting four (4).

Evidence of the commitment from the uMhlathuze Municipality to attend to matters of air quality, the following three projects are being undertaken in the 2023/2024 financial year:

PROJECT NAME	QUANTITY
Installation of 10 dust fallout monitoring buckets	10
Installation of Air Quality Management Station	1
Replacement of (PM10 and PM2.5) analysers for Arboretum and Brackenham monitoring stations.	2

DUST FALLOUT MONITORING PROJECT

Dust fallout monitoring at uMhlathuze Municipality began in March 2024. Windblown settleable dust fall-out is monitored based on the South African National standard for collection and measurement of dust fall (settleable particulate matter) (ASTM D1739:1970), with certain modifications. This method employs a simple device consisting of a cylindrical 5L container half-filled with deionized water exposed for one calendar month(30 ± 3 days).

Table 19: Dust fallout monitoring sites

uMHLATHUZE MUNICIPALITY DUSTFALL MONITORING		
SITE NO.	SITE DESCRIPTION	SITE CLASSIFICATION
1	Disaster Management Centre	NON-RESIDENTIAL
2	Fire Department	NON-RESIDENTIAL
3	Alton Clinic	NON-RESIDENTIAL
4	Aquadene Library	RESIDENTIAL
5	John Ross High School	RESIDENTIAL
6	Richardia Primary	RESIDENTIAL
7	eNseleni Library	RESIDENTIAL
8	Richards Bay Primary (Meerensee)	RESIDENTIAL
9	eSikhaleni Library	RESIDENTIAL
10	Veldenvlei	RESIDENTIAL

Source: CoU Air Quality Management Reports

The figure below shows the dust fallout monitoring sites at Richardia Primary in Arboretum and City of uMhlathuze Fire Department in Alton respectively:

Figure 29: Single bucket monitoring unit



Standards for Dust Deposition

National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004; (Act No. 39 of 2004) National Dust Control Regulations prescribes the method to be used for measuring dust fall rate and the guideline for locating sampling points shall be ASTM D1739:1970 or equivalent method approved by any internationally recognized body.

Table 20: Residential and non-residential dust fallout limits

Restriction Areas	Dust fall rate (D) (mg/m ² /day, 30-days average)	Permitted frequency of exceeding dust fall rate
Residential area	D < 600	Two within a year, not sequential months.
Non-residential area	600 < D < 1200	

A residential area means any area classified for residential use in terms of local town planning scheme. A non-residential area means any area not classified for residential use as per local town planning scheme.

Dust Fallout Monitoring Results

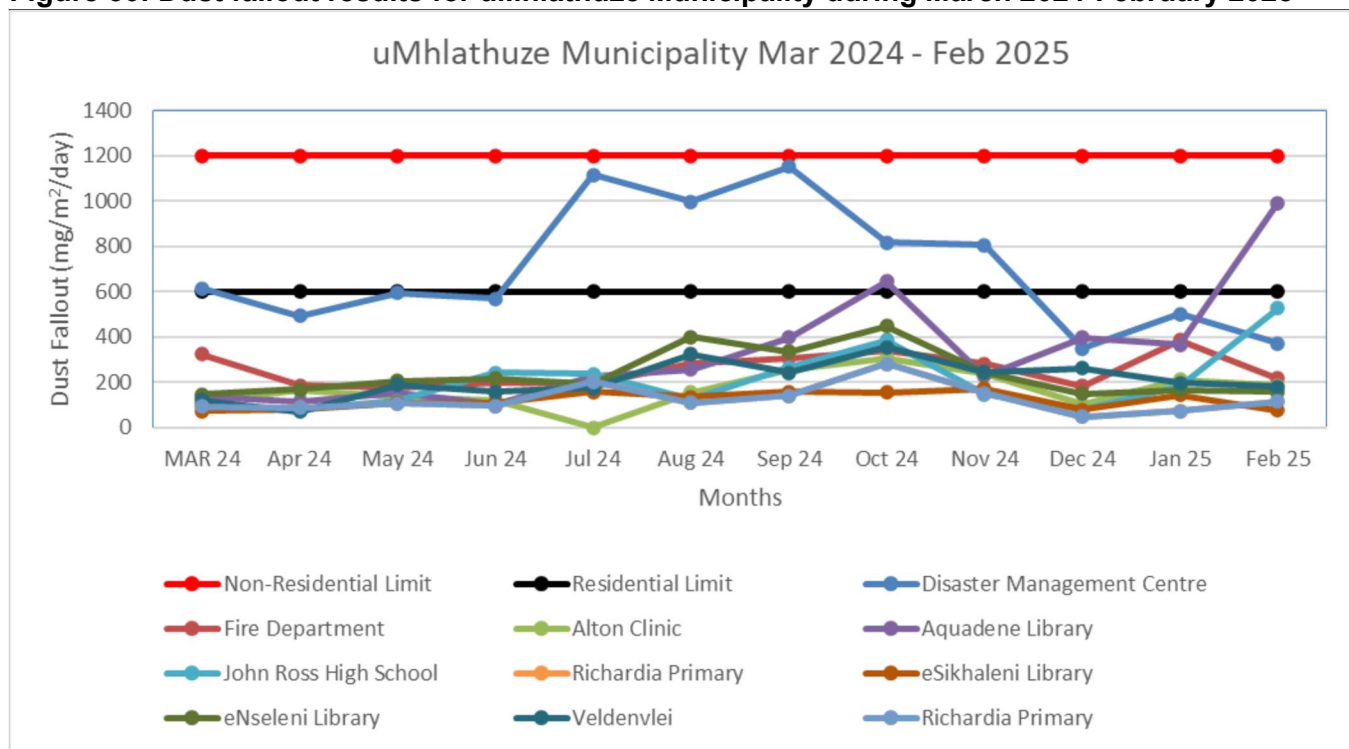
Dust Fallout results for March 2024 to February 2025 are shown in the table and figure below.

Table 21: Dust fallout results recorded at various sites within the City of uMhlathuze for the period March 2024– February 2025

Month	Disaster Centre	Fire and Rescue	Alton Clinic	Aquadene	John Ross High	Richardia Primary	eNseleni Library	Richards Bay Primary	eSikhaleni Library	Veldenvlei Library
APR 24	493	186	164	114	82	88	168	86	79	70
MAY 24	595	178	138	153	119	106	207	120	111	188
JUN 24	570	200	122	102	243	97	217	89	109	159
JUL 24	1114	191	ND	224	236	204	194	117	159	174
AUG 24	997	283	154	255	123	109	401	197	136	325
SEP 24	1151	306	257	397	264	140	334	146	158	241
OCT 24	816	339	308	645	387	283	448	214	156	355
NOV 24	805	281	240	228	146	151	243	229	172	244
DEC 24	348	183	101	398	80	49	150	107	79	262
JAN 25	500	386	210	366	184	73	167	116	143	198
FEB 25	372	218	187	993	526	115	157	131	75	179
MAR 25	668	324	153	308	110	162	100	127	94	181

Source: CoU Air Quality Management Reports

Two (2) exceedances of residential limit (indicated in red) were recorded at Aquadene Library in October 2024 and February 2025 due to the construction activities around Aquadene residential area and the lowest dust fallout rate was recorded in eSikhaleni Library.

Figure 30: Dust fallout results for uMhlathuze Municipality during March 2024-February 2025

SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)

The City of uMhlathuze also monitors SO₂ criteria pollutant. This is a colourless and reactive air pollutant with a strong pungent odour. It is harmful to both human health and the environment. Sources of sulphur dioxide include burning fossil fuel, industrial processes such as wood pulping, paper manufacturing, petroleum and metal refining, smelting of sulphur containing mineral ores as well as vehicle emissions. The natural sources of sulphur dioxide include erupting volcanoes which are not common in South Africa and hot springs. Exposure to high levels of SO₂ causes respiratory problems such as bronchitis and can irritate nose, throat and lungs.

5.4 GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION

This goal has the description to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Domesticated targets and indicators have been formulated for this SDG Goal that outline what the uMhlathuze Local Municipality is doing in its efforts to combat climate change and its impacts as per the following:

Table 21: SDG 13 Domesticated Targets and Indicators for Reporting

Target Nr.	Target Description	Indicator Nr.	Indicator Description
13D1	Integrate climate change measures into municipal policies, strategies and planning	i	Formulation of and reporting on implementation of Climate Change Action Plan
13D2	Improve education, awareness-raising, human and institutional capacity as well as reporting on climate change matters	i	Awareness Campaigns
		ii	Stakeholder engagement on climate change matters

5.4.1 Indicator 13D1 (i) - Formulation of and reporting on implementation of Climate Change Action Plan

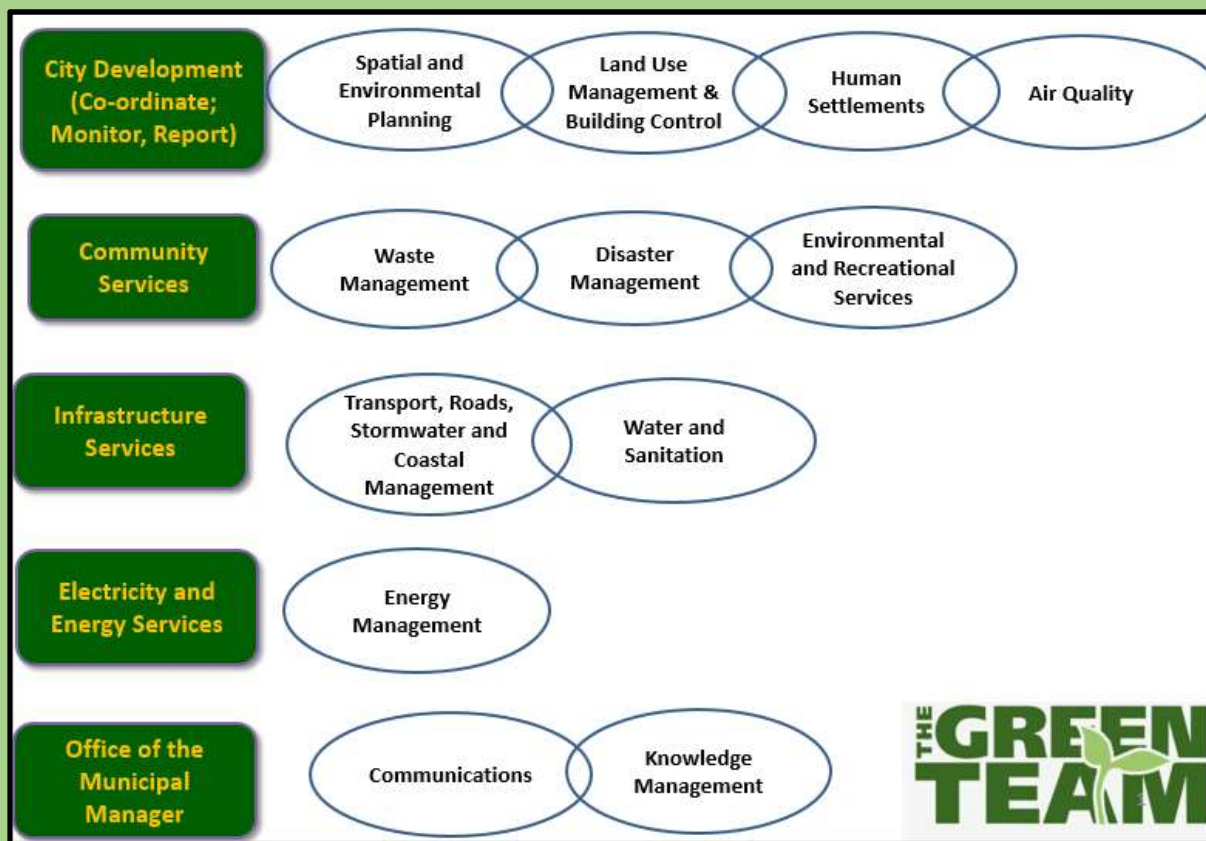
During 2018, the City of uMhlathuze adopted a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). The CCAP is the municipal strategic response to climate change and provides the implementation framework for eleven (11) priority climate interventions, namely:

- i. Disaster Management
- ii. Coastal Management
- iii. Water Resource Management
- iv. Stormwater Management
- v. Open Space Management
- vi. Waste Management
- vii. Energy Management
- viii. Integrated Transport Planning
- ix. City Planning Initiatives
- x. Vulnerable Communities Assessment
- xi. Air Quality Management

Two of the main outcomes of the preparation and adoption of the CCAP was the following:

1. The formation of the Green Team
2. Regular meeting and reporting by the Green Team

Figure 31: Composition of the uMhlathuze Green Team



The uMhlathuze Climate Change Action Plan is currently under review. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) is providing assistance in this regard. The update/review of the municipal Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan is aligned to the requirements of the Climate Change Act, no. 22 of 2024. In line with the terminology used in the Climate Change Act, the product will be termed:

- i. Climate Change Needs and Response Assessment
- ii. Climate Change Response Implementation Plan

The above underlines the fact that climate action is being integrated into the municipal policies, strategic and planning and that monitoring and reporting (by way of Green Team meetings) is taking place on the implementation thereof. The following table provides baseline information in this regard.

Table 22: Strategic Response to Climate Change

		Monitoring and Reporting meetings of the Green Team			
Year	Formulation of strategic response to climate change	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2018/2019	Adoption of Climate Change Action Plan	Not yet in adopted	2	2	2
2019/2020		3	2	2	1
2020/2021		1	1	1	1

2021/2022		3	1	2	1
2022/2023		1	1	1	1
2023/2024		2	1	1	2
2024/2025	Review of strategic response underway	1	1	1	-

Source: Quarterly Progress Reports to Council, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

With regard to the above, the municipal target is one (1) engagement per quarter of the Green Team and this equates to four (4) per annum. On a number of occasions, the target is exceeded and this is mainly the result of the Green Team planning for events/campaigns such as Water Week, World Environmental Day etc.

Baseline for Indicator 13D1 (i) (Formulation of and reporting on implementation of Climate Change Action Plan):

The baseline for the above indicator is to have a valid strategy in place and at least 4 engagements of the Municipal Green Team per annum to report on the implementation of the strategy/Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).



5.4.2 Indicator 13D2 (i) – Awareness Campaigns

The uMhlathuze Municipality undertakes structured awareness campaigns that is tailored to its respective service delivery mandates. Examples of awareness campaigns undertaken relates to, amongst others, air quality management, water conservation, waste management, climate change etc. These campaigns are undertaken at various times during the year and reporting on such activities takes place on a quarterly basis. For the purpose of this baseline reporting, details of awareness campaign activities that relate to climate change (in the form of social media posts) and air quality management are provided in the following two tables.

Table 23: Climate Change Social Media Posts

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023/2024	-	1	1	1
2024/2025	1	1	1	- (current)

Source: Individual Performance Plans, 2023, 2024, 2025

From the above it is noted that with effect from Quarter 2 (1 October to 31 December) in 2023, social media posts were published each quarter on topical matters related to climate change. The municipal target is one social media post per quarter that equates to 4 per annum.

Figure 32: Examples of Social Media Post on Climate Change Related matters**Table 24: Air Quality Management Awareness Campaigns**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2022/2023	4	4	3	3
2023/2024	3	2	4	3
2024/2025	2	2	2	- (current)

Source: Quarterly Progress Reports to Council, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Baseline for Indicator 13D2 (i) (Awareness campaigns on Climate Change matters):

The baseline for the above indicator is to have at least 4 social media posts per annum and 8 awareness campaigns per annum.

5.4.3 Indicator 13D2 (ii) - Stakeholder engagement on climate change matters

Similar to Indicator 13D (i), numerous stakeholder engagement and networking opportunities are pursued by the Municipality. A number of these engagements develop from networks that have been developed over a number of years, for example the networking that takes place with organisations such as ICLEI (International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives).

Networking opportunities per se are difficult to predict and very often reliant on opportunities that are presented by external forces. As such, it is problematic to provide a baseline for such at this stage but efforts can continue to derive a suitable, measurable baseline for such in future.

However, baseline reporting can take place on a structure process of engagement between the Municipality and a number of government stakeholders with private sector role place in the industrial sector uMhlathuze, notably by way of the Environmental Forums with the following industries:

1. Bidvest Tank Terminals
2. South 32
3. Tongaat Hullet Sugar
4. Foskor
5. MPACT
6. Transnet Port Terminals
7. Mondi
8. Grindrod
9. Tronox

The following table provides a summary of structured Environmental Forum meetings as recorded since the 2022/2023 reporting year:

Table 25: Environmental Forum Engagements

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2022/2023	8	7	10	10
2023/2024	8	8	9	7
2024/2025	6	5	8	- (current)

Source: Quarterly Progress Reports to Council, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Baseline for Indicator 13D2 (ii) (Stakeholder engagement on climate change matters):

The baseline for the above indicator is to have at least 4 stakeholder engagements on climate change matters per quarter that equates to 16 per annum.

5.5 GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The targets and associated indicators being reporting on are as follow:

Table 26: SDG 16 Targets and Indicators for reporting

Target Nr.	Target Description	Indicator Nr.	Indicator Description
16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector
16.7	Ensure responsiveness, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	16.7.1	Proportion of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups in public institutions

5.5.1 Indicator 16.6.1 - Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector

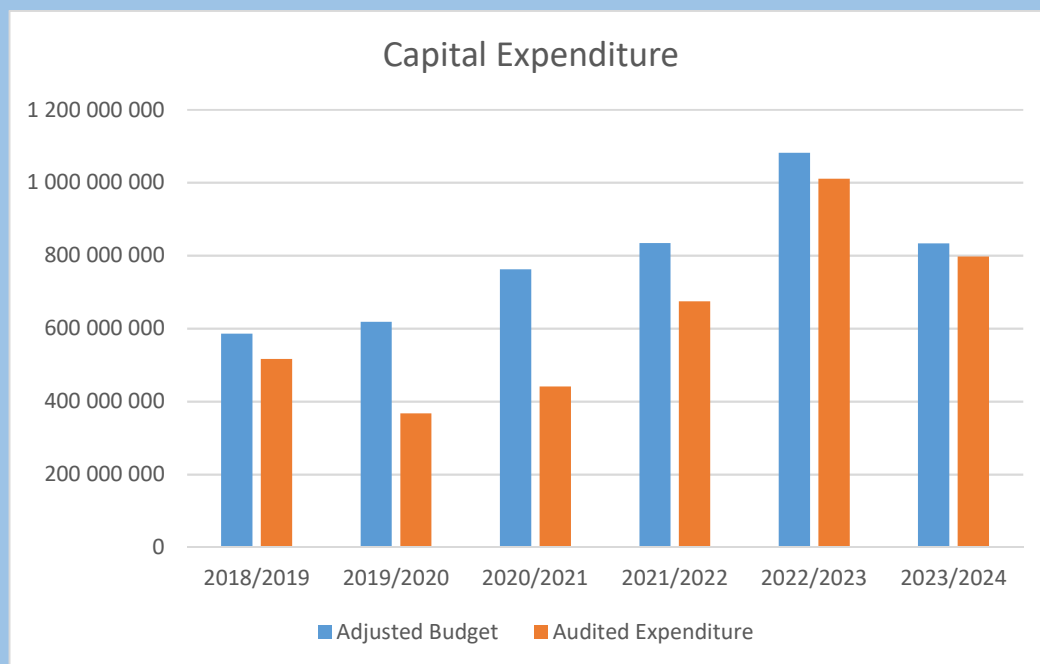
In the past 6 years (2018/2019 to 2023/2024) the municipality has been able to roll out its capital infrastructure to improve the quality of life of its citizens. Below is a table and figure for capital expenditure which compares budget to actual expenditure over the said time frame.

Table 27: Actual Capital Expenditure Compared to Budgeted Expenditure

	Adjusted Budget	Audited Expenditure	%
2018/2019	586 328 400	516 680 407	88
2019/2020	618 146 800	367 222 269	59
2020/2021	762 708 500	440 932 117	58
2021/2022	834 530 300	674 400 985	81
2022/2023	1 081 608 700	1 010 422 141	93
2023/2024	833 464 800	797 865 312	96

Source: uMhlathuze Annual Report, 2023/2024

Figure 33: Actual Capital Expenditure Compared to Budgeted Expenditure



Derived from Table 20 (above)

There was substantial improvement in the 2021/2022 financial year on capital expenditure given that the expenditure was at 81% as opposed to 58% in the previous year. In many instances, capital infrastructure created job opportunities. The municipality over the years has continued to be robust in the roll out of the infrastructure and the municipality has managed to put together a good funding mix.

Baseline for Indicator 16.6.1 (Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector):
The above baseline figure as audited for 2023/2024 is 96%

5.5.2 Indicator 16.7.1 - Number of positions by sex, population groups and disability

The following series of tables provide historic data regarding employment in the Municipality broken down by sex, population groups and disability.

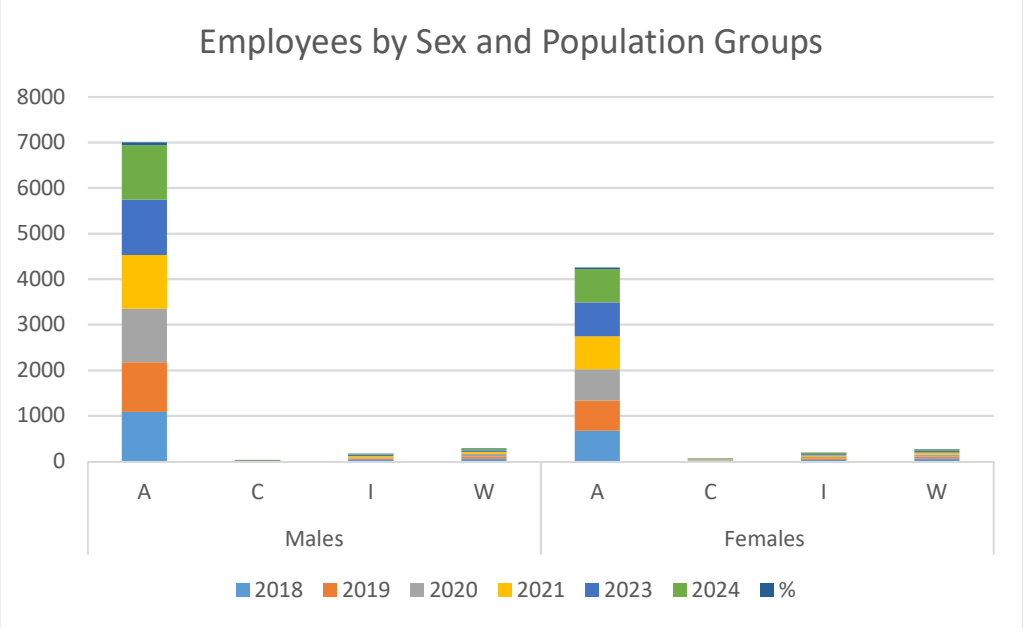
Table 28: Positions by sex and population group

	Males				Females				Total
	A	C	I	W	A	C	I	W	
2018	1086	4	29	58	669	10	34	56	1946
2019	1087	4	29	53	659	10	31	49	1922
2020	1171	5	28	51	688	11	32	48	2034
2021	1179	5	28	45	727	11	32	42	2069
2023	1220	2	27	38	743	7	29	33	2099
2024	1194	2	25	36	734	7	28	32	2058
%	58,02	0,10	1,21	1,75	35,67	0,34	1,36	1,55	100,00

Source: uMhlathuze Annual Reports

The last row in the above table indicates the percentage (%) of positions by sex and population group. The above table is depicted in the following figure.

Figure 34: Number of Positions by sex and population groups



In the following table the number of disabled employees are indicated also by sex and population group. Updated data for 2024 not yet available.

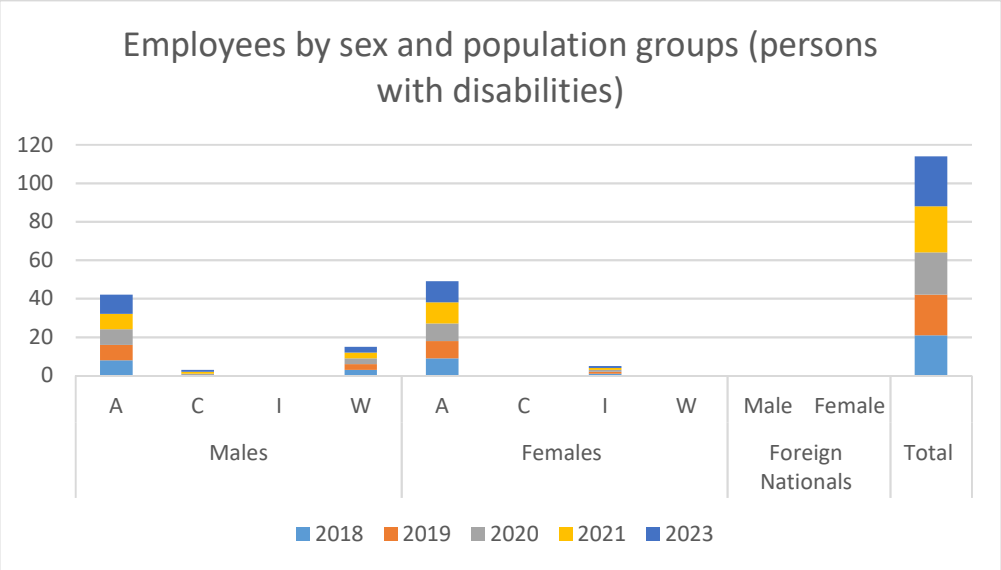
Table 29: Number of Positions by sex, population group and disability

	Males				Females				Foreign Nationals		Total
	A	C	I	W	A	C	I	W	Male	Female	
2018	8	0	0	3	9	0	1	0	0	0	21
2019	8	0	0	3	9	0	1	0	0	0	21
2020	8	1	0	3	9	0	1	0	0	0	22
2021	8	1	0	3	11	0	1	0	0	0	24
2023	10	1	0	3	11	0	1	0	0	0	26
%	38,46	3,85	0,00	11,54	42,31	0,00	3,85	0,00	0,00	0,00	100,00

Source: uMhlathuze Annual Reports

The last row in the above table indicates the percentage (%) of positions by sex, population group and disability. The above table is depicted in the following figure.

Figure 35: Number of Positions by sex, population groups and disability



Baseline for Indicator 16.7.1 (Number of positions by sex and population groups in 2024):

Males:

African	1194
Coloured	2
Indian	25
White	36

Females

African	734
Coloured	7
Indian	28
White	32

Baseline for Indicator 16.7.1 (Number of positions by sex and population groups with disability in 2023):

Males:

African	10
Coloured	1
Indian	0
White	3
Foreign Nationals	0

Females

African	11
Coloured	0
Indian	0
White	0
Foreign Nationals	0

5.6 GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR GROWTH

SDG 17 has the intention to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. The Municipality has placed a lot of emphasis on the role of partnerships in achieving its development mandate and vision, as well as the cross cutting elements of the development environment; notably, climate change, urban and rural interface and safety.



As it stands, this SDG required localization to the local context of uMhlathuze and the wording of “Partnerships for Growth” enables such localization. In this context, the following table outlines the targets and indicators for SDG 17 specific to the uMhlathuze Local Municipality.

Table 30: SDG 17 Targets and Indicators for reporting

Target Nr.	Target Description	Indicator Nr.	Indicator Description
17D1	Active participation in multi-stakeholder partnerships/networks by way of knowledge sharing, technology/expertise and financial resources to further the developmental mandate of the Municipality and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	i	Partnerships/networks with private and public sector including State Owned Enterprises (SoE)

It is not uncommon that there is a duplication of indicators. Duplication does not mean a mere repeat but is indicative of the cross cutting nature of indicators. As such, whereas the narrative is not the same, the indicators and sources are similar.

Similar to Indicator 13D (i), numerous stakeholder engagement and networking opportunities are pursued by the Municipality. A number of these engagements develop from networks that have been developed over a number of years, for example the networking that takes place with organisations such as ICLEI (International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives).

Networking opportunities per se are difficult to predict and very often reliant on opportunities that are presented by external forces. As such, it is problematic to provide a baseline for such at this stage but efforts can continue to derive a suitable, measurable baseline for such in future.

However, baseline reporting can take place on a structure process of engagement between the Municipality and a number of government stakeholders with private sector role place in the industrial sector uMhlathuze, notably by way of the Environmental Forums with the following industries:

1. Bidvest Tank Terminals
2. South 32
3. Tongaat Hullet Sugar
4. Foskor
5. MPACT
6. Transnet Port Terminals
7. Mondi
8. Grindrod
9. Tronox

The following table provides a summary of structured Environmental Forum meetings as recorded since the 2022/2023 reporting year:

Table 31: Environmental Forum Engagements

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2022/2023	8	7	10	10
2023/2024	8	8	9	7
2024/2025	6	5	8	- (current)

Source: CoU Air Quality Management Reports

In addition to the above structured engagements, that can be measured, quantified and reported on, the City of uMhlathuze has active memberships/partnerships with organisations such as ICLEI (International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives) and the GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale

Zusammenarbeit GmbH). As a result of the latter, the Municipality is participation in the following three programmes:

Dialogues for Urban Change (D4UC)

Within the framework of the National Urban Development Policy and bilateral cooperation agreements with national partner governments, the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) implements cooperation measures in the field of integrated urban development with partners in, amongst others, Ukraine, the USA and South Africa. The National Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), in cooperation with the Governance Support Project (GSP) of GIZ has been implementing a national peer to peer learning network in which uMhlathuze has been a key participant and driver of peer learning focused at realizing the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) in Intermediate City Municipalities. uMhlathuze is involved in a peer to peer learning network consisting of three South African Intermediate City Municipalities (uMhlathuze, Stellenbosch, KwaDukuza) as well as the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro and four German cities, the BMI, DCoG, as well as the City associations such as SALGA (South African Local Government Association), SACN (South African Cities Network) and the German Association of Cities. The GIZ Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP) Programme, which has been engaging with uMhlathuze in the past, is also a partner and the focus of the network is liveable neighbourhoods and public spaces with a special focus on equity, social cohesion and urban safety.

CitiesAdapt

The South African National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and the South African National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) with support from GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Government of Germany are implementing a global project - **CitiesAdapt**. The purpose of the project is to build the resilience to climate change impacts in selected cities and disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods in South Africa and Mexico and uMhlathuze is the selected partner city from South Africa. The intention is support to one selected disadvantaged neighbourhood to transform towards a more climate-resilient and pro-poor urban development pattern.



Low Carbon and Climate Resilient (LCCR)

The Municipality is participating in the Low Carbon and Climate Resilience (LCCR) Water Resource project. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) of the Federation Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER), from the Swiss Confederation. The project objective is to enable secondary municipalities in South Africa to simultaneously improve their climate resilience, their service delivery, and their responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable groups. The project provides support mainly through capacity development and consulting support in areas including reducing non-revenue-water, improving financial management, improving energy efficiency in wastewater

treatment, and facilitating access to either national or international funding for measures to reduce carbon emissions or to improve resilience of water and wastewater services.

Our ICLEI membership has provided numerous benefits, particularly in relation to climate change matters. Some of the most recent initiatives include.

- Urban LEDS (Low Emissions Development Strategy)
- Energy Smart Metering
- SDG Localization

Other examples of partnerships include:

1. Tripartite arrangements are in place with local State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), i.e. (Transnet National Ports Authority) TNPA and RBIDZ (Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone).
2. The Municipality is actively engaging in the District Development Model (DDM).
3. At a technical planning level, the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) forum and King Cetshwayo District Municipality (KCDM) Planners Forum are supported.
4. Major projects/developments are being pursued along the PPP (Public-Private-Partnership) route, i.e. the proposed Relocation and Redevelopment of the Richards Bay Airport as well as the Proposed Waste-Water Re-Use project.
5. For Local Economic Development, partnerships exist with the Insika Foundation, Zikulise and Nalithemba.

During the prolonged drought experienced of the last decade the uWASP (uMhlathuze Water Stewardship Partnership) was established. Through the partnership numerous operational initiatives were prioritised, e.g. water losses study around Esikhaleni and Vulindlela – an areas challenged by water security issues. Through the uWASP, Council received the sponsorship of a drone as well as training to manage informal planning and water losses.

5.7 SUMMARY OF BASELINE FINDINGS

- I. Baseline for Indicator 6.1.1 (Access to Safely managed drinking water): 95 187 out of 100 441 households have access (at an acceptable standard) to safely managed drinking water that relates to 94,7%.
- II. Baseline for Indicator 6.2.1 (Access to Safely managed sanitation services): 91 131 out of 100 441 households have access (at an acceptable standard) to safely management sanitation services that relates to 90,7%.
- III. Baseline for Indicator 7.1.1 (Access to Electricity): 99 409 out of 100 441 households have access (electricity from mains) for lighting that relates to 98,9%.
- IV. Baseline for Indicator 7.1.1 D (Proportion of Households in licensed municipal supply area using metered municipal supply of electricity): In 2024/2025 a total of 32 382 out of 35 872 were using metered municipal supply of electricity that relates to 90%.
- V. Baseline for Indicator 11.1.1 (Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing): 3 024 out of 100 440 households are living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing that relates to 3%.
- VI. Baseline for Indicator 11.6.1 (Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out total urban solid waste generated by the city): 64 050 out of 100 440 households have solid waste regularly collected that relates to 63,7%.
- VII. Baseline for Indicator 13D1 (i) (Formulation of and reporting on implementation of Climate Change Action Plan): The baseline for the above indicator is to have a valid strategy in place and at least 4 engagements of the Municipal Green Team per annum to report on the implementation of the strategy/Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).

- VIII. Baseline for Indicator 13D2 (i) (Awareness campaigns on Climate Change matters): The baseline for the above indicator is to have at least 4 social media posts per annum and 8 awareness campaigns per annum.
- IX. Baseline for Indicator 13D2 (ii) (Stakeholder engagement on climate change matters): The baseline for the above indicator is to have at least 4 stakeholder engagements on climate change matters per quarter that equates to 16 per annum.
- X. Baseline for Indicator 16.6.1 (Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector): The above baseline figure as audited for 2023/2024 is 96%
- XI. Baseline for Indicator 16.7.1 (Number of positions by sex and population groups in 2024):

Males:

African	1194
Coloured	2
Indian	25
White	36

Females

African	734
Coloured	7
Indian	28
White	32

Baseline for Indicator 16.7.1 (Number of positions by sex and population groups with disability in 2023):

Males:

African	10
Coloured	1
Indian	0
White	3
Foreign Nationals	0

Females

African	11
Coloured	0
Indian	0
White	0
Foreign Nationals	0

6. STAKEHOLDERS

The following provides a summary of stakeholders that play an important role in this process. Stakeholders are identified given their knowledge and contribution to the respective SDGs being reported as noted hereunder:

Municipal:

- Office of the City Manager
- Chief Operating Officer
- Infrastructure Services
- Corporate Services
- Electrical and Energy Services (Energy Management)
- City Development
- Chief Financial Officer



Non-Municipal:

- uMngeni-uThukela Water
- Zululand Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ZCCI)
- KwaZulu-Natal Department of Water Services
- KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA)
- Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG)
- Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG)
- Department of Human Settlements
- Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA)
- STATSSA
- ESKOM
- Richards Bay Clean Air Association (RBCAA)
- AfriSoc
- Informal traders
- Santaco (Public Transport Industry)
- Ngwelezane Place of Safety (and similar)
- Rotary Club
- Large Industry
- South African Local Government Association (SALGA)
- National Treasury
- University of Zululand (UniZUL) and local TVET colleges (Technical and Vocational Education and Training)

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Individual Performance Plans

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLE), Local Government Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Symposium

Quarterly Progress Reports submitted to Council structures

Richards Bay Clean Air Association (RBCAA), 2024 and 2025

SuperCross, 2022

uMhlathuze Annual Report, 2023/2024

uMhlathuze Capital Expenditure Framework (CEF), 2023 and 2024

uMhlathuze Integrated Development Plan (IDP), 2024

uMhlathuze Spatial Development Framework (SDF), May 2024