

November 2022

Impact of the Social Employment Fund (SEF) on participants

Violence Prevention Through Urban Upgrading (VPUU)
Case Study



PRESIDENTIAL
EMPLOYMENT
STIMULUS



WESTERN CAPE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP



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VPUU is one of 28 SIPs contracted to disburse SEF funds to its Change Makers through its SEF-funded Towards Building a Community Circular Economy (TBCCE) programme. This case study illustrates how the SEF has impacted employed participants receiving monthly stipends and VPUU's financial commitment to the programme's rollout.

List of Acronyms

SEF	Social Employment Fund
SEN	Social Employment Network
VPUU	Violence Prevention Through Urban Upgrading
TBCCE	Towards Building a Community Circular Economy
SAPS	South African Police Service
CPF	Community Policing Forum
NWV	Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers
ECD	Early Childhood Development
SSAF	Soweto Strategic Area Framework
CoJ	City of Johannesburg



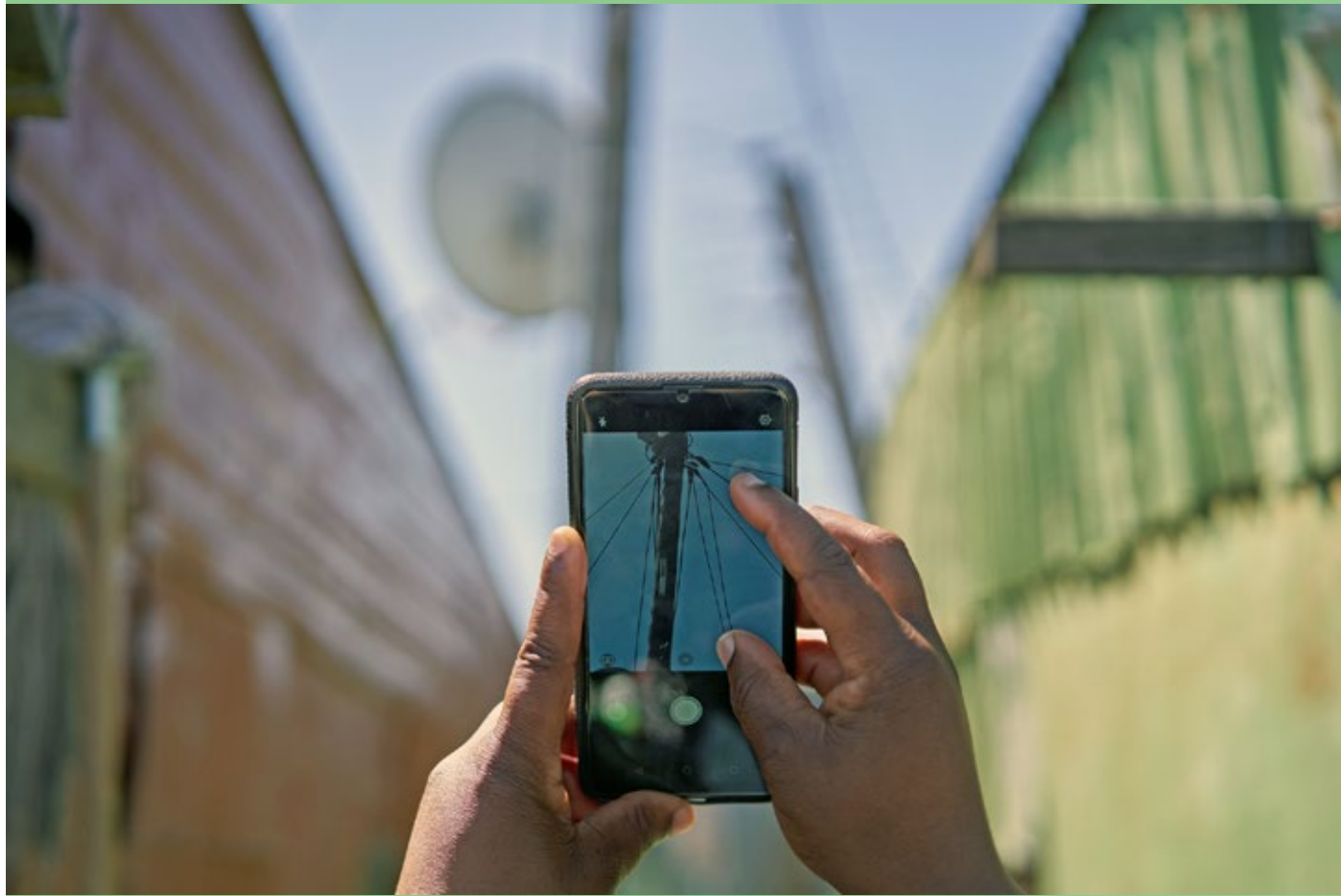
About

VPUU

VPUU is a Public Benefit Organisation implementing programmes that promote healthy and integrated communities, citizenship, pride, and quality of life for people by increasing safety and security through urban improvement efforts and social interventions. In partnership with communities, VPUU implements multisectoral, integrated, area-based upgrading initiatives in South Africa.

VPUU in Soweto

Outside of TBCCE, VPUU was part of a consortium that developed the SSAF, which established a forum for the community and the CoJ to meet regularly to discuss Soweto's future development and track the SSAF's progress.



TBCCE

VPUU's SEF-funded programme

The TBCCE programme is founded on the local community support provided during the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative runs activities in Bonteheuwel, Hanover Park, Tambo Village, Gugulethu, Lotus Park, Nyanga, Siqualo, Harare, Monwabisi Park, New Monwabisi Park and Villiersdorp.

TBCCE provides support in the following thematic areas:



Placemaking

Repair & Maintenance: Clean, well-maintained public areas, infrastructure, and amenities promote; safety, investment, participation, and self-management.

Check-IT: Informal settlement members use Check-IT to report damaged taps, lighting, and toilets, which promotes community service delivery.

Safety: Safety ambassadors patrol neighbourhoods with SAPS, CPF, and NHW. Social interventions and stakeholder involvement are based on monthly safety report updates.

Household surveys: The Community Household Survey measures community satisfaction with public service delivery, infrastructure upkeep, and safety.



Education Support

ECD 4 All: In informal settlements, VPUU supports non-registered, ECD centers, where ECD practitioners, IT, knowledge management, operation and maintenance staff provide long-term ECD services. VPUU's population-level ECD strategy includes community involvement to identify and respond to children and their parents needs in informal settlements. Work in informal townships include strengthening ECD-forums.

Food Security & Nutrition – Urban farming: Community-based food gardens recruit unemployed people part-time through TBCCE. The skills development programme trains gardeners. Local gardens supply fresh vegetables to ECD facilities, expanding the circular economy.



Waste Management

Urban management that recycles organic waste in informal settlements returns resources to urban agriculture, reduces waste, mitigates climate change, and creates cleaner communities



Digital inclusion - VNET

Residents benefit from the VNET community Wi-Fi network. Users receive free, reliable Wi-Fi. Additionally, trained community-based Changemakers install and maintain VNET hardware.



Impact

"TBCCE is a tool in the hands of citizens in vulnerable, marginalised, and violent neighbourhoods with the goal of meaningfully contributing to and actively shaping the transformation of the ‘Culture of Violence’ narrative to a ‘Culture of Peace’. It is a step-by-step process for individuals to become Change Makers in this journey of changing lives, communities, spaces, and systems."

Michael Krause, CEO of VPUU



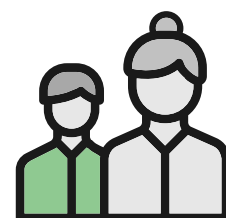
1000

Changemakers employed



R2,25m

Planned contribution of VPUU funds to the SEF project



500k

People impacted by TBCCE

The Social Employment Network (SEN)

The SEN is a peer-to-peer learning and support network and community of practice that supports the 28 SIPs across South Africa who are contracted to disburse the SEF. The learning network, which is convened by the **EDP** and **DGMT**, facilitates a regular meeting space for SIPs to address common challenges and collaborate around opportunities, while sharing and documenting learnings that are fed back to government as structured input to inform the design of future iterations of the SEF.

[Read more about the SEF and SEN here](#)



“The SEN allowed us to share the experiences with other SIPs and to formulate a common position for collective action. Additionally, it made possible for us to find synergies as well as identify duplications and alignment. It is also good to have an independent facilitator who is not involved in the implementation of SEF which allows for a Birdseye view.”

Michael Krause, CEO of VPUU



Bukeka Sitsha

Bukeka Sitsha (44) has been trained to install and maintain the hardware that enables the VNET community Wi-Fi network in Lotus Park.

“First of all, I’m very happy to be in this project. It gave me a job, and in the community, it has made a big change. Before this, I was working as a general worker, cutting grass, clearing parks but now I have skills.

I’ve learned how to install Wi-Fi, and because of my training I can see the reasons why Wi-Fi is not working. Before we had the VNET, kids used to be more worried about finishing their schoolwork but now they can turn on the Wi-Fi on their mobile phones and do research. With the VNET I’m no longer worried to buy monthly data. Also,

when I was looking for a job, it costs money to buy data to look for a job and to apply for it but now, we can email our documents if there’s a job, we are interested in.

Now that I have this employment contract, at least I can put bread on the table. Earning a salary has made a huge difference in my life because I can support my three kids and my mum.”





Xola Mvimbi

Xola Mvimbi (30) is a waste management project changemaker in Lotus Park. Mvimbi collects buckets of organic waste from residents, which is then processed for use in the community food garden, that feeds the children who attend the local ECD center.

“Our job is easy but it’s important. We start at 9am every day and we go out into the community and collect the black buckets from people’s homes which contain organic waste. We do this so that people stop throwing food on the streets and when we take their full buckets, we give them clean buckets to fill up again. We also do awareness and education campaigns in the community to let people know about why waste management is important to keep our area clean. Lotus Park is pretty clean right now. It was very dirty and kids couldn’t play outside, now kids are playing soccer and netball outside. Before this, I wasn’t working.

***A job is a man’s dignity.
There is nothing you can do
without a job.***

It gives confidence and a purpose. I wake up in the morning and I have something to do. It gives me money and I can help my family.

In this job I have learned people skills and to be able to communicate with people. You must be able to resolve conflicts on the spot since it’s not a typical workplace. Before I was shy and introverted but now, I can talk to people without hesitation, and it makes me happy to talk to people.”





Khanyile Jara

Khanyile Jara (19) conducts household surveys which provides relevant data about the community's needs which VPUU responds to. Jara is also part of the Check-IT team which logs infrastructure due for repair with the CoCT in the Lotus Park community

“I’ve been working for three months. I go to the field to collect data on public infrastructure like street lights, public toilets and taps to see if it's working. We also do household surveys ...and ask about specific changes they want to see in the community. I now have research skills and interpersonal communication skills.

People are participating more in the community these days. When VPUU first arrived, people were reluctant to get involved with VPUU but now people are proactive. They are going out of their way to tell us about broken infrastructure.

When I matriculated, I intended on starting a business but not everyone is Bill Gates who started a business

out of his garage. You need capital to start a business.

Ever since I started working, I’ve collected resources to start my business. We have started a car wash.

Me and a friend, we wash cars, taxis, and also clean dustbins. We do this on weekends, and we are looking to expand the business beyond Gugulethu. Fifty percent of my salary goes to help in the house and 50% goes towards growing the business. You have to have a goal. Being ambitious is not a bad thing. With my salary, I support my younger brother who lives with my grandmother, and I give him transport money to travel to and back from school.”



Conclusion

The SEF is proving an effective mechanism for successfully creating employment opportunities that depends on an active and collaborative partnership between government and civil society who are already delivering services on the ground.

Acknowledgements

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