

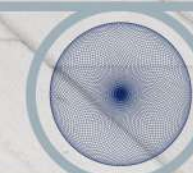


***Empowering communities,
transforming lives***



COMPANY PROFILE

2021



2025

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ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION



40

Years of impact

100

Research reports

120

*Staff members lost
to government*

150

Publications

200

Grants received

200

*Municipalities
served*

300

*Partnerships
formed*

2000

*Local communities
served*

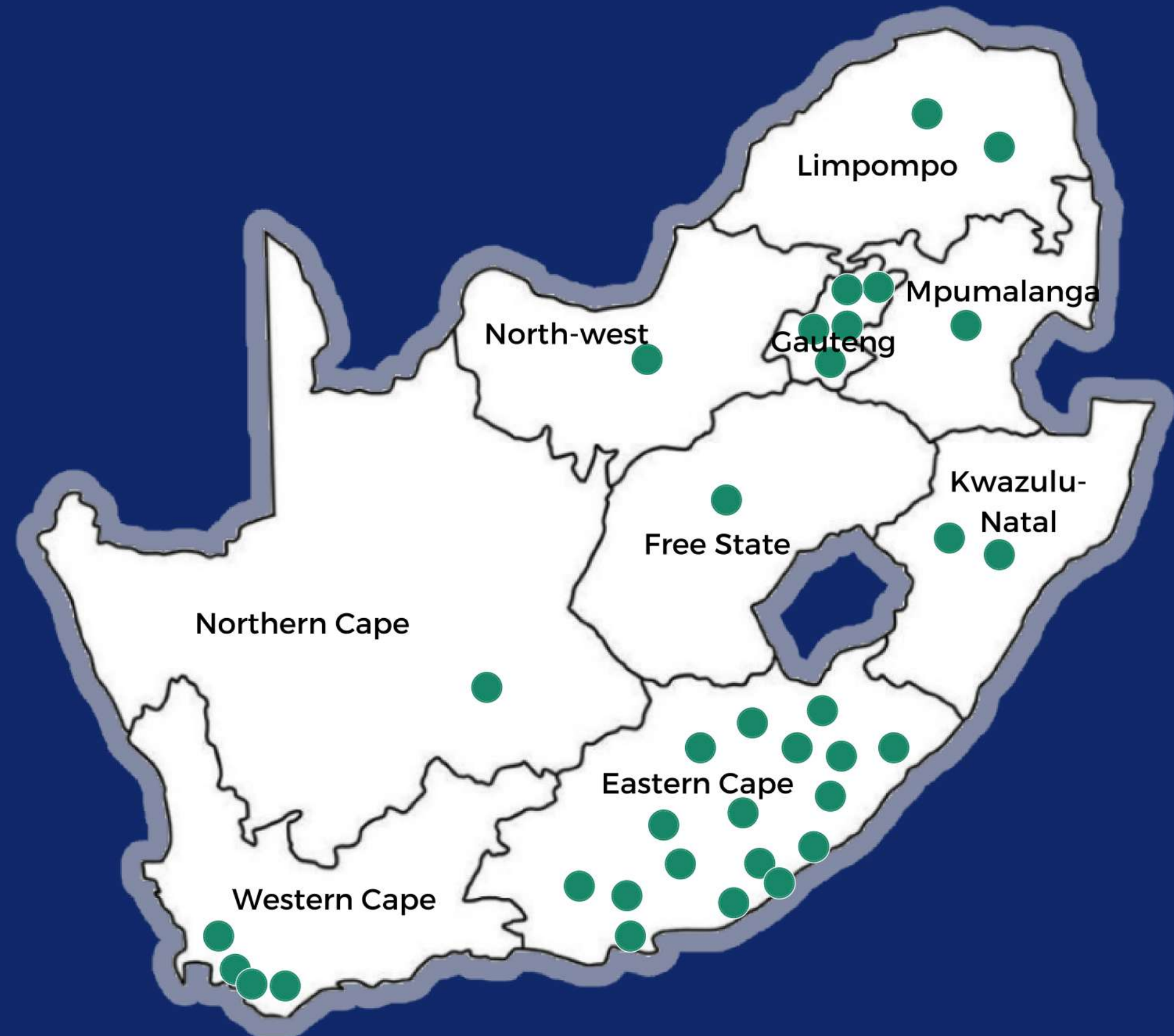
5000

*Capacity building
sessions*

OUR FOOTPRINT

“Afesis-corplan will be the first name that comes into the mind of people in the province and nationally when the subject of innovative alternatives to low-income housing and strengthening democracy at a local level is discussed.”

Annual Report (2003)



TIMELINE

A reflection on the work of Afesis over decades.

1983

Afesis is founded as a Trust. It provides para-legal and community advice services. It joins the One City national campaign that resisted forced removals of black families from urban centres. It established CORPLAN in 1986 as a vehicle for policy advocacy and inclusive city development. It establishes a training unit for targeted democracy and civic education in preparation for the first democratic vote.

1993

The Trust is dissolved and AFESIS-CORPLAN, the NGO is established in 1992. The organisation's civic education work intensifies, going beyond urban communities to organised labour unions, farmworkers, and other remote parts of the province. The Urban Sector Networks is established and Afesis-corplan is a founding member. A strategic decision is made to locate the organisation's post-1994 work around the strengthening of participatory democracy and local governance, as well as pro-poor urban housing.

2003

The Transformer Journal for Development is established as a vehicle for building a community of practice around the themes of Afesis-corplan's work. The first country pilot of Cooperative Housing is implemented in Amalinda. The ward committee handbook is developed for the then Department of Provincial and Local Government. Numerous policy proposals are developed and most are received well by the Department of Human Settlements. Activities aimed at building the capacity of local communities to participate in local government decision-making are intensified.

2013

Afesis-corplan intensifies its advocacy for reforms in local government, lamenting weaknesses with legislated mechanisms for public participation. The first pilot of a model for rural development is implemented with the Mvezo Development Trust in Mvezo – the birthplace of former President and statesman Nelson Mandela. Afesis-corplan builds its social facilitation capacity and participates in the piloting of community-agricultural enterprises with shared benefits with the government. Afesis-corplan is appointed a social facilitator in the Mthatha Turnaround programme.

2023

The organisation's name is changed from Afesis-corplan back to its original AFESIS as a way of claiming its heritage and activist roots. The organisation's work straddles numerous provinces and is no longer centered in the Eastern Cape. Kagisano is established and is implemented across five provinces with a focus on building mechanisms and the capacity of local structures in violence-prone communities to resolve collective violence. The organisation's work is targeted at movement building, strengthening social accountability, and democracy.

A REFLECTION ON THE HISTORY OF AFESIS-CORPLAN

Afesis, a Greek word meaning 'liberation' (correctly spelt in Greek as Aphesis), was established in the early 1980s and formerly registered as a TRUST in 1983. The name chosen for the organisation spoke to its mission and its commitment to support the struggle for liberation. In its early years, the organisation offered para-legal services, training, and other services supporting communities in the then Border region to stand against the oppressive laws and practices of the Apartheid regime. In 1990, Afesis joined the 'One City Campaign', a nationwide campaign calling for an end to racially oriented municipalities and resisting forced removals of black families from inner cities in line with the apartheid laws of racial segregation. In 1991, Afesis established Corplan (shortened from Community Research and Planning) as a dedicated program that supported the One City campaign with research and technical advice. Corplan, the program, quickly grew in the scope of its work and in popularity to an extent that when the TRUST decided to dissolve and re-register Afesis as a Section 21 not for profit entity in 1992, they named the organisation Afesis-corplan.

Although the legal status and the name of the organisation changed, its mission, vision and commitment to social justice never changed. In the early 1990s the organisation became a training ground for community activists with dedicated democracy education programs that were intentionally preparing black South Africans for the democratic transition. In its strategic planning session following the first democratic elections in 1994, the organisation agreed that its post-1994 work would focus on strengthening participatory democracy (a new concept for black South Africans and a core tenet of a democracy), and to continue to advance the struggles of black low-income people seeking access to urban land and decent shelter. With this as its focus, the organisation maintained its rights-based approach to development and its pursuit of social justice.

In its early years Afesis-corplan played a significant role in policy formulation and in the design of local government as we now have it. It lost many of its senior staff members into the post-1994 civil service just like many other NGOs had at the time. The years between 1995 – 2010 were years where the organisation, like many others, was rebuilding itself while implementing programs that were mostly in alignment with and in support of the developmental plans of government. By 2010, it was fast becoming clear that many black South Africans, in particular rural and poor people, were being left behind.



The period between 2010 – 2020 was dedicated to speaking up and speaking out and to building the capacity of marginalized communities to hold government to account for the unmet promises. This was also a period where the fault-lines in democratic South Africa become far more glaring and inequality worsened, necessitating a more focused and sharpened response from civil society. Covid-19 hit in 2020 and highlighted fragilities in the state and in society in general that were not as glaring as before. Having just emerged out of and still reeling from the effects of Covid-19, Afesis-corplan held its most recent strategic planning session in 2022.

The year 2023 marked 40 years of existence for Afesis (later re-named Afesis-corplan) and it made sense for the organisation to stand still and reflect on its rich history, its successes and its footprint over four decades. There was a recognition that while a lot had changed and the organisation's contribution to positive social change was identifiable, there was still a lot that needed to be done. While the vision for a democratic South Africa had generally been realized, economic transformation and the emancipation of the poor remained elusive goals. As a result, the struggle continues. In its next decade, Afesis-corplan is committed to fight with and for the poor and marginalized, to attain material benefits that make democracy real for everyone – rich and poor alike, and for all to live in peaceful and safe environments that guarantee a better future for our children and future generations.

In readying itself for the decade ahead and in realizing that in so many ways the organisation had come a full circle, Afesis-corplan reflected on its founding mission, vision and the intent at the time of its formation. Based on this reflection, the Board resolved in May 2023 to change the name of the organization back to its founding name Afesis, as an affirmation of the organization's commitment to social justice. Furthermore, the Board agreed to change the organization's corporate colors to navy blue, forest green and white to align to this focused mission. Navy blue stands for vigilance, persistence and justice; white stands for peace and equality; and forest green stands for natural resources, prosperity and the persistent struggle for land access. Finally, the Board assessed the organization's capacity to implement its strategy and made the necessary changes in the organisation's structure and capacity in pursuit of the strategic goals.

In the decade ahead Afesis commits to remain mission-driven, properly skilled, activist-oriented, agile and resolute. We are committed to working with stakeholders who share our vision and values, and as such are open to exploring opportunities that will help us maximize our impact and create lasting change through strategic and result-oriented partnerships.





Due to a large influx of relief cases, the Afesis advice centre decided to establish a relief scheme to assist families whose breadwinners were in detention.

Annual Report (1986)



"Addressing the country's challenges requires strategic partnership and a conscious effort to pull resources and energies towards a common goal."
Nontando Ngamlana (2013).



“Afesis-corplan needs to be congratulated on its perseverance and steadfastness. May you continue to carry the banner towards reconstruction and development in the second phase of our revolution. I sincerely believe that Afesis-corplan will continue to be one of the flagships for development and reconstruction in our country.”

**Ex-Eastern Cape Province MEC
for Economic Affairs - LS
Ngonyama (1995)**





OUR VISION

Our vision is of a just and equitable society where institutions of democratic governance are inclusive, responsive and accountable.

AFESIS

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to support civic agency through catalytic interventions in sustainable human settlement development and good local governance.

"Without our strategic partners (especially our donor partners), there can be no Afesis. As a Board, we remain committed to ensuring that the organisation remains robust, agile, and resilient."

Chairperson of the Board, Gafeetha Vengadajellum (2020)





AFESIS still has a very important role to play as regards to the empowerment of activists from within organisations to enable them to participate more effectively in the process of social transformation. **Annual Report 1991**

OUR GOALS

1

SERVICE DELIVERY

Bolster the service delivery contract between government and citizens;

2

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Support efforts to strengthen oversight in local government as a key element of good governance;

3

PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthen movement building and strategic partnerships;

4

RESILIENCE

Strengthen the organisation's resilience and that of civil society.

OUR VALUES

- 1 HONESTY AND INTEGRITY
- 2 ACCOUNTABILITY
- 3 OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY
- 4 PARTNERSHIPS

We are guided by the understanding that development is a political process, and we continue to work to put the needs of the poor and disenfranchised on the development agenda.

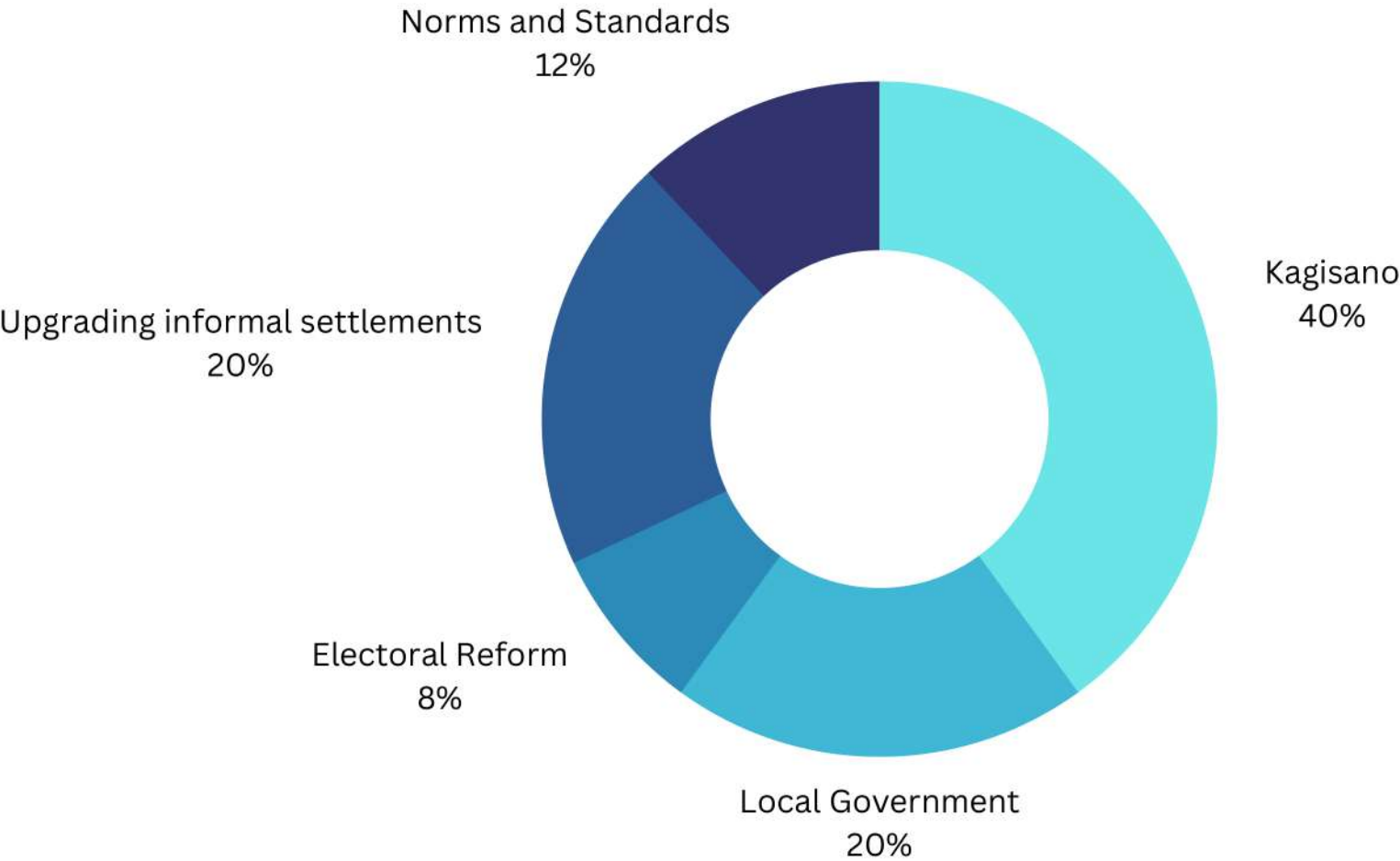
Annual Report (1993).





“It would take an active citizenry to say NO to corruption and to the apparent erosion of democratic institution. It would take an active citizenry to defend the principles and human rights couched in the constitution. It would take an active citizenry to demand for and place ethical leaders at all levels in our society” **Nontando Ngamlana (2014).**

CURRENT PROJECTS

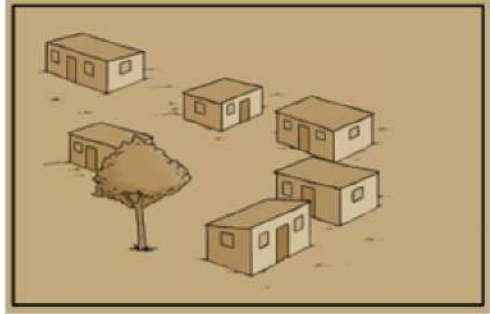


Budget breakdown per programme

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Kagisano	Building social cohesion and preventing collective violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build the capacity and skills of local communities to manage conflict and to deal with current drivers of violence in South Africa.
Local Government	Support communities using trainings and social audits to better engage local government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure the objectives of local government enshrined in section 152 of the constitution are met.
Rural Democracy and Electoral Reform	Rural governance on issues of land rights. Electoral Amendment Bill of 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity building of rural communities on their rights.• Amplify the call on government to review the electoral system.
Upgrading Informal Settlements	Reblocking Pilot Project in Scenery Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electrification of Informal Settlements
Norms and Standards	Encourage the National Department of Water and Sanitation to publish the draft norms and standards for domestic water and sanitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solicit public comments and inputs into the draft so that the guideline responds to the needs of informal settlements and municipalities alike.

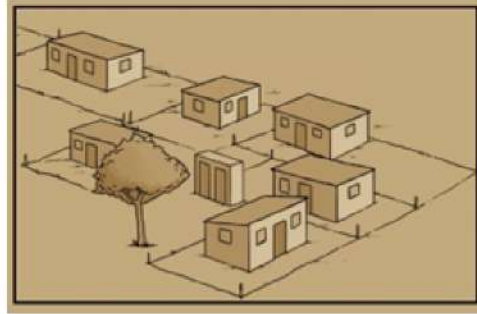
AFESIS

PHASES OF IN-SITU UPGRADING OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS



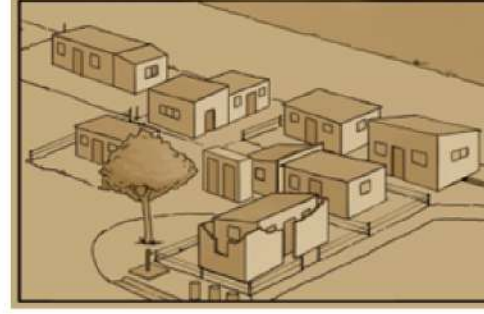
1. PREPARE

Prepare community to engage in future upgrading phases, and collate as much socio-technical data as possible on settlement.



2. BASIC

Provide basic infrastructure like water, sanitation, refuse removal, electricity and storm-water drainage.



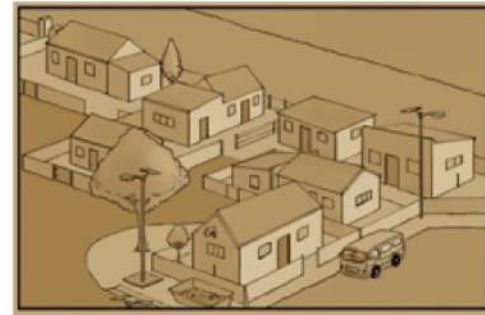
3. SUPPORT

Provide on-going support to help people help themselves



4. CONSOLIDATE

Provide further consolidation upgrading support.



5. ON-GOING

Continuation of previous phases into the future including maintenance and improvement of services.





#WE HAVE THE
RIGHT TO
know where
you STAND

#SIVUKILE
eGLENMORE

Finish of
where
you
Started!!!

SICEIA
I DEVELOPMENT
NIT MASIP

ACCOUNTING
FOR BASIC SERVICES ✓

ACCOUNTING
FOR BASIC SERVICES

#SIVUKILE

eGlenmore



Ndibone
See me



Ndive
Hear me



Theta-Nam
Let's speak

afesis-corplan
Promoting active citizenship and good governance

plan act

HEINRICH
BÖLL
STIFTUNG

BESQ

ISANDLA
CONNECTION

European Union

“Afesis at this time focused on very grassroots work with disadvantaged communities that were still wrestling with the remnants of the apartheid administration for land, shelter and services. At the same time, we were also trying to overhaul the entire system of municipal government. This led to great opportunities like contributing to the 1998 White Paper on Local Government, figuring out how local government finance would work and virtually designing from scratch the new model of district municipalities.”

**Glenn Hollands - Ex General
Manager (1998)**



Fostering organic
opportunities
to bring people
together



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



afesis-corplan



LAWYERS FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

EMORIAL HALL

2008

ELIM MAPPING

REBANK (MUKAMBANI)

GROUP

magulule

Mabobo village



“Capacity building is what communities need and that is what Afesis does best.”
**Member of the Board of Trustees -
S. Mafanya (1995).**

MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

22



**FREDERICK
HENDRICKS**

Nominations

**SONWABILE
MNWANA**

*HR, Ethics, &
Remuneration*

**GAFEETHA
VENGADAJELLUM**

*Chairperson of the
Board*

**EBRAHIM
FAKIR**

*Programme
Oversight*

**PHINDILE
NTLIZIYWANA**

Risk

**NONTANDO
NGAMLANA**

*Executive
Director*

Afesis-corplan has a strong, dedicated, and multi-skilled Board which is supported by engaged sub-committees. The organisation has had a strong culture of good governance evident in its strategy, its funding relationships, and its transformative work.

MEET THE TEAM - MANAGEMENT

23



RONALD EGLIN

Specialist: Sustainable Settlements



NONTANDO NGAMLANA

Executive Director



BRIDGET VAN WYK

Admin & Finance Manager

*Ph.D. Candidate in Social Sciences (Sociology): UFH
Registered Professional Planner: SACPLAN
Master of City and Regional Planning: UCT
B.Sc. (Majoring in Economics and Geography): RU*

*Research Fellow: Business School of Netherlands
MBA: Business School of Netherlands
M.A. in Development Studies: NMMU
B.Sc Hon in Mathematical Statistics: UPE
B.Sc (Applied Mathematics and Statistics): UPE*

Bcom Honours in Accounting Science: UNISA

The Management of Afesis has over 50 years of collective experience in NGO Leadership, Social Justice, and Activism.

MEET THE TEAM - STAFF



**ZIMASA
MPEMHNYAMA**

*Programme Officer:
Communications*



MDUDUZI NTONGANA XOLELA XALA

*Programme Officer:
Basic Services*



Intern: Basic Services



MKHUSELI MADIBA

*Programme Officer:
Kagisano*



UNAM MLISANA

*Programme Officer:
Local Government*



SIVUYILE SITOLE

Intern: Kagisano

*M.A. Media Theory and
Practice: UCT
BA Hons Journalism and
Media Studies: Wits
BSc Microbiology and
Human Physiology: UCT*

*BSc (Hons) in Urban and
Regional Planning: Wits
BSc in Urban and Regional
Planning: Wits
Candidate Planner:
SACPLAN*

*Mphil. in Environmental
Management: SU
Post Graduate Diploma in
Environmental
Management: SU
B-Tech in Public
Management: DUT
NDip in Public Management:
DUT*

*BA Hons in Community
Development: Cornerstone Inst.
Short Course - Leadership in
Context: Stellenbosch Univ.
BA in Community Development:
Cornerstone
Higher Cert. in Community
Development: Activate
Leadership
Higher Cert. in Business
Administration: TSIBA
Education*

*BA (Hons) Development
Studies: UWC
BA (Geography,
Environmental Studies,
Psychology, Tourism):
UWC*

*M.A. in Political and
International Studies: RU
BA (Hons) in Political and
International Studies: RU
BA in Legal Theory and
Political and International
Studies: RU*



**ALBERT
MPAZAYABO**

*Programme Officer:
Kagisano*



**NONTOBEKO
GCABASHE**

*Programme Manager:
Kagisano*



LIHLE SKOSANA

Office Administrator



VUSI GQOMOSE

*Programme Officer:
Governance &
Stakeholder Relations*



VANESSA RAMOO

Procurement Officer



**NODATHINI
STUURMAN**

Office Assistant

*PhD Candidate -
Development Studies (ISD):
UWC
M.Phil - HIV & AIDS
Management: SU
Post Graduate Diploma -
Monitoring and Evaluation
Methodologies: SU
Post Graduate Diploma - HIV
& AIDS Management: SU
B Psych: UWC*

*M.A. Social Science in
Conflict Transformation
and Peace Studies: UKZN
BA (Hons) Development
Studies: UNISA
B.Soc.Sc: UKZN*

Bcom Accounting: UFH

*NDip. Electrical Engineering:
NMMU
Dip. Microsoft Office: Damelin
Cert. IT Management: Siemens
Cert. Business Management:
Toastmasters
Cert. Broadcast Management: RU
Cert. Business Broker: Link
Academy - Australia
Cert. Life Coach: Express Coaching
- Canada*

*Dip. Business
Administration &
Management: Damelin
Pastel Partner Processing:
Astel Projects
Pastel Payroll: Softline
Pastel
Project Cycle Management
for NGOs: Wesdev*

*She has served Afesis with
devotion for over 20 years.*



“Our accomplishments contributed to the rebuilding and positioning of municipalities within the Eastern Cape, enhanced the quality of life for many Eastern Cape citizens in both urban and remote parts of our province.”
Mzwandile. Poswa, Ex Chair of Afesis (2002).

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CONTACT

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