

AREA COORDINATION READINESS

The Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management (DPSTM) make up King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality's (KSD) core team in the SPRINT Lab. Uniquely, the team does not yet have area-based plans or frameworks for Mthatha West.

The main legislative enablers for an Area Coordinating Team for Mthatha West will be future Ward-level Safety Plans, and the DCOG's new District Development Model (DDM), which is being piloted in OR Tambo District Municipality (ORTDM) (ORTDM, 2019b:6). The DDM emphasises "maximum coordination" and a "bottom-up approach" (ORTDM, 2019b:8). Before the DDM, ORTDM supported the development of the KSD Community Safety Plan, which is foundational to violence prevention in Mthatha. ORTDM can advocate for protective factors in the Community Safety Plan's implementation plan; monitor implementation; and support DPSTM in convening the Community Safety Forum.

The DPSTM Lab Liaison is credible, deeply open to learning, and has a wide network; however, with less decision-making power, they rely on department heads. Thus far, leadership buy-in has been secured via a letter of endorsement from the Director of DPSTM. However, in engagements with VPUU, most of the officials were not familiar with Mthatha West itself. Although positive about the project, the core team seemed reluctant to engage at the site. The KSD Directors of Waste Management, Human Settlements and Communications, as well as the ORTDM Director for Public Safety, did express strong buy-in.

KSD officials shared that they need to become more customer service-focused and require Peace Officer training for Law Enforcement. VPUU identified the following needs: to collect socioeconomic data in Mthatha West, to integrate violence prevention into the Community Safety Plan and IDP, and to capacitate officials in community participation.

The most pressing challenges that projects in Mthatha West face are the complexities of land ownership and demarcation. Firstly, Mthatha West's informal boundaries are unclear. It is not owned by KSD; therefore, it is not included in the Mthatha SDF and, in turn, it is not a planning priority. However, the IDP initiated a vision for land to the west of the settlement as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which will boost job creation. Lastly, although Mthatha West is situated on state land, it is contested by land claims. Few permanent infrastructural interventions can be implemented until the claims and ownership are resolved.

For now, KSD's key partners on the ground include the Catholic Development Centre, the Ward 11 Committee, and a facilitative Ward 11 Councillor. Financially, KSD has low resources due its reliance on rate-paying. Ward 11 and Ward 12 each have access to R100 000 community development funds.



ORGANISATIONAL READINESS: CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The Catholic Development Centre (CDC) was established in 1988, and currently has 148 employees spread throughout ORTDM. The CDC has a history in Mthatha West and already has a working relationship with KSD.

The CDC has cemented itself within Mthatha by providing support on overlapping violence prevention strategies, with an emphasis on ECD and public health. The CDC adopts a holistic approach to their programmes and have the ability to identify problems and address them by acknowledging the role of cultural violence. Programmaticaly, the focus of the CDC is on psychosocial support and health in families. It has successfully advocated for solutions to KSD DSD. This makes it an experienced partner with an in-depth understanding of the unique context of the Mthatha West landscape. The CDC is a trusted organization within the community; their Child and Youth Care Workers make daily visits to families either coping with HIV/AIDS or at-risk of child abuse, and establish strong bonds. The CDC also provides after-school support and career development to youth in Mthatha West. During the COVID lockdown, the CDC partnered with KSD DSD to bring food relief to vulnerable people. The partnership has not been without challenges, but both the CDC and municipality have successfully navigated their relationship to effectively provide aid.

The CDC's programming is guided by evidence and each family's needs, which provide the baseline for their M&E processes. Programmes are designed based on the unique challenges of the site, to address HIV/AIDS, drug use, violence and school drop-outs, while remaining



flexible to overcome project-related challenges. The CDC is well capacitated, due to its visionary and experienced CEO, as well as a strong team in Mthatha who have the ability and skills to address the social challenges of the site.

During the site visit, CDC were able to identify opportunities to implement a CDF project in partnership with KSD DPSTM, as well as acknowledging potential challenges and what changes would be required to ensure success.

The CDC has the capacity to partner with KSD DPSTM to support initiatives in Mthatha West. It has the capacity, leadership and historical presence, both in the community and in its relational ties with the municipality, to be able to take the project forward and implement additional violence prevention initiatives.

Lastly, one of the CDC's key connections is the Cape Development and Dialogue Centre Trust, a registered trust which connects and faith-based organizations across South Africa to collaborate on practical implementation and interfaith advocacy. This initiative could support the sustainability of a collaboration between KSD and the CDC.