

## VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES



### EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

VPUU did not observe educational programmes or facilities for children on the Maxwell Street site in the CBD. However, integrating early childhood development programmes there, in partnership with DSD, could benefit traders and commuters in the site. This could include day care, nutrition and health services. These programmes are critical in the first 1000 days of child development, and can help in improving a child's school performance in later stages, reducing school dropout, and increasing earlier school enrolment.



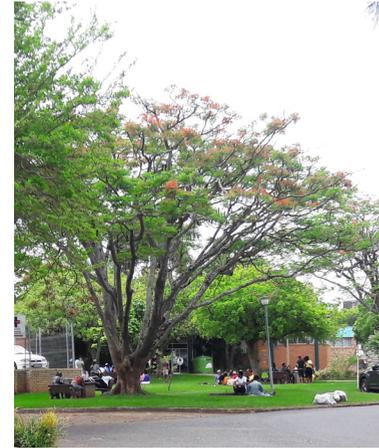
### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

VPUU observed a need for opportunities to occupy young people in the CBD, to reduce high youth unemployment and related issues. Young people may be incentivised to participate in waste management or employed as contractors to implement ETCRP projects. Opportunities also abound for the Youth Development Unit at the SMME One-Stop-Shop to partner with the core uMhlathuze team and civil society actors, such as the Zikulise Community Upliftment Project and the private sector, to develop impactful youth programmes.



### EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME-GENERATING DEVELOPMENT

The municipality's SMME One-Stop-Shop, with its Youth Development Unit, is a LED strength in eMpangeni. A strategic partnership with these programmes could strengthen the implementation of the *Empangeni Town Centre Revitalisation Plan*. This could include finding and upskilling local contractors for construction or community-based operations, maintenance and management. The Plan also envisions robust infrastructure for both informal and formal businesses in the CBD; however, the municipality could may require support in sustained engagement with the informal traders in the space.



## COMMUNITY MOBILISATION

The municipality demonstrated a need for support on participation with councillors, CSOs and community members. Currently, mobilisation is limited to public meetings within the IDP process, which is seen as local government's primary engagement opportunity. In these meetings, typically only ward committees are present, but they fail to extend communication to broader Empangeni stakeholders. The municipality uses WhatsApp to communicate about public services, and can build on this to improve engagement.



## COMMUNITY DELIVERY OF SERVICES (CDS)

The main vehicle for CDS in Empangeni is the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), which mainly employs older workers in public spaces. Other EPWP workers are employed through the nearby Mega Housing Project. In the long term, the Area-Based Management Programme aims to make EPWP part of their operations and repair work, which will help reverse urban decay. However, other CDS opportunities, such as volunteerism incentivized by links to training and economic opportunities or bringing youth EPWP workers into waste management, have not been explored.



## URBAN MANAGEMENT

Although still pre-pilot, uMhlathuze's new Area-Based Management Programme (ABM) has great potential to improve urban management in the CBD. The programme will coordinate with other departments to manage and maintain public infrastructure. ABM will be most responsive if it engages the community through key stakeholders, such as Facility Advisory Forums; however, VPUU did not observe plans for effective engagement. Lastly, ABM will be more financially sustainable if it participates in the development of Trading Plans and is funded by both income-generating and subsidised facilities.