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## THE SPRINT PROJECT

The Safer Places: Resilient Institutions and Neighbourhoods Together (SPRINT) Project is a joint initiative between GIZ's Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme (GIZ VCP), Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU NPC) and Isandla Institute. The Steering Committee includes the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), National Treasury, the Department of Human Settlements (DHS) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). It was conceptualised in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to assist selected communities across the country with building resilience.

The COVID 19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on many communities in South Africa. Social cohesion is even more at risk which might amplify risk factors for increased violence and crime. There is a need for the upscaling of targeted, area-based interventions that promote violence and crime prevention and the use of ABVPI tools.

This initiative will contribute to strengthening and empowering a learning network amongst already well-established civil society organisations, working closely with municipalities and other partners, to

apply approaches and tools for violence prevention through urban upgrading, in line with the objectives of the Integrated Urban Development Framework and other relevant policy frameworks, particularly in the human settlement and safer communities sector.

It will enhance their capacity through training, structured exchanges and knowledge dissemination and support municipalities with the implementation of area-based interventions that promote the building of safer communities. This will ease risk factors for, and build protective factors against violence and crime through co-creation and improved ownership in selected areas. Such interventions entail a package of social, economic and infrastructural interventions, including the promotion of opportunities especially for young people.

The Laboratory Pathway of the SPRINT Project involves capacity-building processes with participating municipalities and CSOs; an in-depth situational analysis; and hands-on mentoring support with two specific sites with the implementation of a Community Development Fund. It focuses on co-designing and implementing practical, area-based solutions to violence-related challenges. This document is a situational analysis of a site within the Laboratory.

## MTHATHA WEST

Mthatha West is situated about five kilometres from the city centre of Mthatha, which is part of King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality. The population of Mthatha West is estimated to be around 40 000 people, with 6 424 households (Wazimap, 2011). The area consists of four peri-urban informal settlements with fluid boundaries: Mandela Park, Joe Slovo, Phola Park and Chris Hani. The land that these informal settlements are located on is owned by the EC Department of Rural Development, restricting KSD's ability to invest in the area. The issue is currently being resolved in court. However, this is further complexified by the fact that the settlements formed as a result of land grabs, leading conflicts and properties being sold to multiple people at once. Most of the residents do not have title deeds to the property on which they live. While most residential buildings are houses, one-story rows of flats are also common; however, the flats are crime hotspots due to either absent landlords or illegal squatters.

In general, the non-residential areas of the settlements, such as R61, are characterised by small business activities such as spaza shops, street vehicle workshops and brick yards. Mthatha West has a very high unemployment rate.

In terms of services, the community's water is supplied by standpipes and skips are provided for waste removal. There are no

street names, which makes it difficult to locate houses; this is particularly a challenge in emergency situations, when people have to go to the main road to assist first responders with directions.

KSD has the highest murder rate among the four sites in the 2020 situational analysis. In 2018/2019, it experienced an unprecedented 17% increase in the murder rate from the previous year, to 80 murders per 100 000. Last year, the murder rate decreased to 72 murders per 100 000. Most of the crime facing the area includes shebeens opening at all hours, house break-ins, drug abuse, child abuse, rape and murder. Shootings occur very often, especially at night in taverns. It was also identified that cable theft is a major issue in the area, which affects electricity supply. In public spaces, especially in shops, pickpocketing is a prevalent crime. It was noted that many people fear to report these crimes for fear of victimisation. On the other hand, it takes time for police to respond to crime reports because the nearest police station is in the Mthatha town centre. Most of these social ills have created a perception of Mthatha West as a "no-go" area.

The community leadership structure is not clearly defined; however, community members and KSD officials shared that, while Mthatha West is located on communal land under the jurisdiction of chiefs, there are always questions around the legitimacy of those chiefs, as it is a contested space.

