

## VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES



### EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

ECD activities in Mthatha West are led by civil society. The CDC visits families on a daily basis to provide child protection and referrals and to identify and respond to abuse, if it is taking place. The CDC's 13 Child and Youth Care Workers who operate in Mthatha West also provide parent and caregiver support. The organisation has run a food parcel programme for families during the COVID-19 pandemic, navigating a crucial partnership with the Department of Social Development.



### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The CDC provides group studies and homework help to primary and secondary school learners in Mthatha West, and distance support to TVET college students from the area. A playground in Mthatha West has space for netball and soccer, but no facilities. Younger children access the park, but it is not attractive to older kids. The Ward Committee indicated that they require an enabling environment for youth activities. Funding for sport facilities is available to the Ward Councillor, but inaccessible.



### EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME-GENERATING DEVELOPMENT

VPUU observed some SMME support spaces (painted red) along the road between Chris Hani and Mandela Park in Mthatha West; however, for the most part, KSD requires support in strategic partnerships with the private sector to invest in local businesses. This will be vital to fighting unemployment in the area. The CDC has also expanded to provide support to youth-owned SMMEs. With additional financial resources, there are many opportunities for KSD to upskill and work with EPWP and co-ops in Mthatha West.



## COMMUNITY MOBILISATION

The main stakeholders in Mthatha West are chiefs; however, this has resulted in problems because the chiefs change regularly due to conflict. Ward Councillors, who have more legitimacy, also have a significant presence. Beyond politics, the municipality engages communities through Mayoral programmes. KSD mainly communicates with communities through flyers and ward councillors, who provide updates about municipal programmes or service delivery. An intermediary would be required to support KSD with community participation in Mthatha West, in order to mediate historical conflicts and upskill key officials in meaningful engagement processes.



## COMMUNITY DELIVERY OF SERVICES (CDS)

While Mthatha West has experienced CDS strategies in the past, it no longer has consistent access to this combination of opportunities and improved service delivery. Previously, KSD hired co-operatives to provide basic landscaping: workers received a stipend and some basic training; however, with fewer municipal resources, co-ops are hired less frequently. Technically, communities are responsible for maintaining community halls, but they do not have the skills, resources or ownership required to do so. A CDS approach would help KSD invigorate socio-economic participation and service delivery.



## URBAN MANAGEMENT

Most of Mthatha West receives minimum services from ORTDM and KSD: water stand pipes, skips, access roads and some electricity. Waste removal is a challenge due to road conditions. Funding restricts KSD from serving the area further, although officials envision improved services and public landscaping. KSD and traders along R61 would mutually benefit from an Informal Trading Plan, which could improve cooperation and urban management. An enabling policy framework and an Area Coordinating Team must be identified in order to develop sustainable Area-Based Management plans.