



a world class African city

# JOBURG VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW 2023/24



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## 1 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AU	African Union
BAU	Business As Usual
BRT(S)	Bus Rapid Transit System
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CPFs	Community Policing Forums
COGTA	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
CoJ	City of Johannesburg
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DDM	District Development Model
DPME	Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
EISD	Environmental and Infrastructure Services Department
ESP	Expanded Social Package
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Program
FBS	Free Basic Services
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FMDV	Global Fund for Cities Development
GBVF	Gender-Based Violence and Femicide
GCR	Gauteng City Region
GCRO	Gauteng City Region Observatory
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GGT	Growing Gauteng Together
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHS	Statistics South Africa's General Household Survey
GPC	Global Protocol for Community-scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IGR	Intergovernmental Relations
IIF	Integrated Indicator Framework
IIOC	Integrated Intelligent Operations Centre
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPPs	Independent Power Producers
IUDF	Integrated Urban Development Framework
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
IT	Information Technology



JCSS	Joburg City Safety Strategy
JICP	Johannesburg Inner City Partnership
JMPD	Johannesburg Metro Police Department
JRA	Johannesburg Roads Agency
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MtCO <sub>2e</sub>	Million Tonnes of Carbon emissions equivalent
MTSF	Medium-Term Strategic Framework
MWh	Megawatt Hour
NDP	National Development Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NZC	Net zero Carbon
PBO	Public Benefit Organization
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PV	Photovoltaics
QoL	Quality of Life survey
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SACN	South Africa Cities Network
SADC	South African Development Community
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SANS	South African National Standards
SANTACO	South African National Taxi Council
SDBIP	Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Sustainable Energy Africa
SSEG	Small-Scale Embedded Generation
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEP/GEF	United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment facility
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review



## 2 HIGHLIGHTS

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This is the first time that the City of Johannesburg has produced a Voluntary Local Review (VLR). The main findings were verified and confirmed as valid via a robust stakeholder validation workshop. The VLR includes inputs from our community members.

Access to basic services in the City of Johannesburg (CoJ) is high at an average of 93% in 2022. But sustainability and stability of services can be improved. The city has a constitutional mandate to ensure that all households have adequate access to basic services. The city is prioritizing getting the basics right and ensuring that every community has access to good quality services.

Centralizing data for local government and city planning, such as the SDG indicators, can improve decision-making by providing a comprehensive view of the city's needs and its resources. This can streamline processes, reduce duplication of efforts, and enhance collaboration among departments. Additionally, centralizing data can help in identifying trends, forecasting future needs, and ultimately improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of local government operations. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and smart tracking of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators can enhance monitoring and evaluation of SDGs process and assist to identify priority areas for accelerated intervention. This will not only improve the City of Johannesburg's SDG reporting but also contribute to overall sustainable development efforts.

The city has benefited from collaboration in terms of partnerships. From time to time, the City requires an adaptable governance system to respond to disruptions and crisis. Similarly, to enhance its ability to achieve SDG targets, the CoJ should create a policy environment that fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing, supporting sustainable development partnerships with various stakeholders such as the international community, other spheres of government, businesses, local communities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), academia, and others. A good example of this is the Johannesburg Metro Police Department's (JMPD) public private partnership (PPP) with Vumacam to provide access to cameras to help with crime prevention and investigations.

The graph below provides a snapshot of the City of Johannesburg’s SDG progress using selected indicators as reported in this VLR.

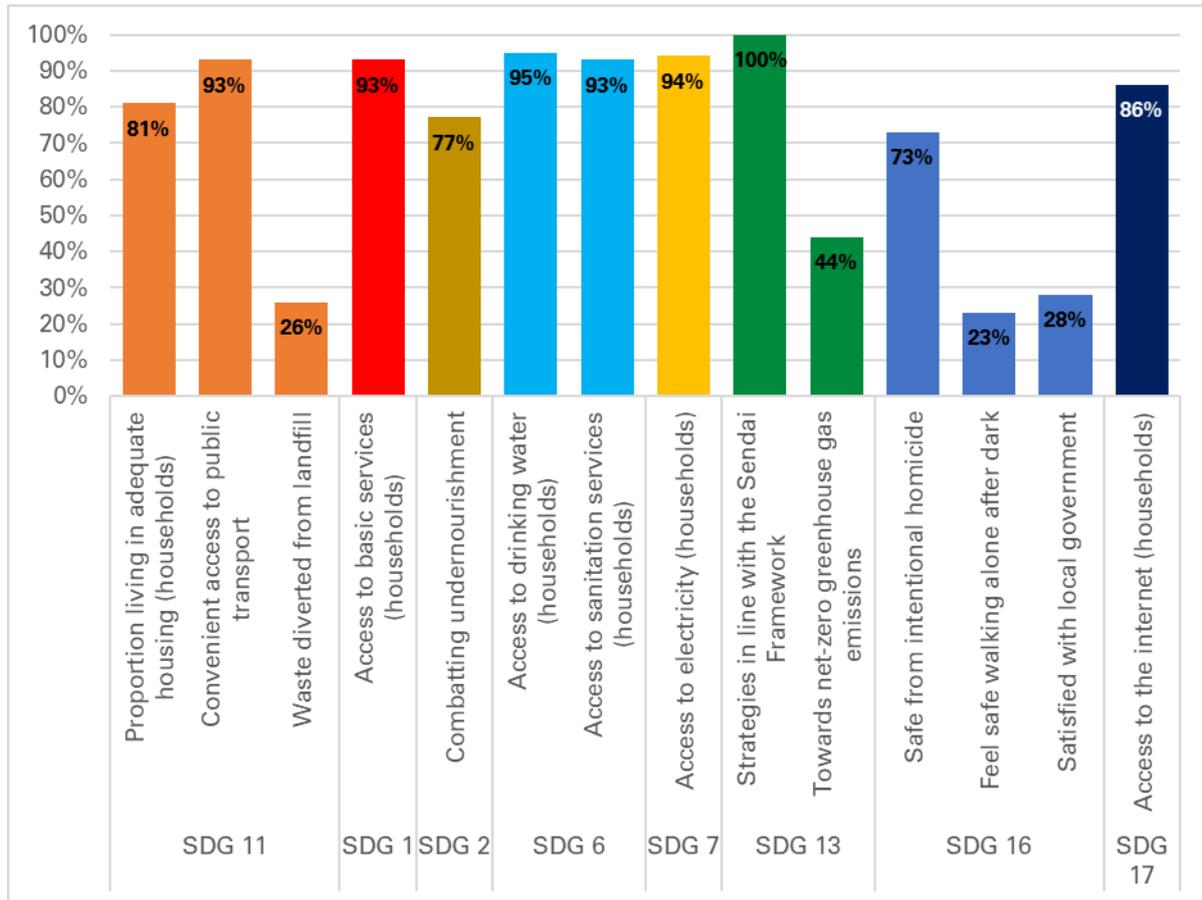


Figure 1: Snapshot of the City of Johannesburg's SDG progress using selected indicators.

## 3 INTRODUCTION

### Global context

The SDGs are a set of 17 global Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015. The SDGs are an evolution of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were adopted in 2000 to improve the lives of people around the world. The SDGs are, however, broader in scope than the MDGs, covering a range of issues from poverty and health to climate change and gender equality. The SDGs were formally adopted at a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution called the 2030 Agenda (more commonly referred to Agenda 2030) (United Nations, 2023b).

The SDGs are intended to guide global development efforts and help countries achieve sustainable development by 2030. The implementation of the SDGs is being monitored and reported by the United Nations each year, with progress being made in some areas but not enough in others. The SDGs are an important part of the global effort to create a more equitable, peaceful, and sustainable world.

**FIGURE 3: THE FIVE PILLARS OF THE 2030 AGENDA**



Source: United Nations Secretary General

Figure 2: The five pillars of the 2030 Agenda

## National context

South Africa has a progressive constitution, and the SDGs are closely linked to the socio-economic rights of its citizens enshrined in the constitution (South Africa's Voluntary National Review Report, 2019). Despite this, many South Africans are not fully aware of these rights, particularly the second-generation rights that focus on healthcare, food, water, social security, and education, due to the history of the country. South Africa has committed itself to achieving the SDGs by 2030 and was an early supporter of the initiative, indicating that it is capable to plan, prioritise, finance, and enforce the best possible ways of doing so. Reducing inequality and eliminating poverty by 2030 are at the forefront of South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP). There is a strong overlap between the objectives of the NDP with the majority of the SDGs, and the SDGs can be used as a framework to track progress of achieving the objectives of the NDP. By arranging the SDGs into sections (socials goals, economic goals, environmental goals, and governance, peace, justice, and security goal), an overview of the progress and challenges is provided that considers the links between the NDP and Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) (South Africa's Voluntary National Review Report, 2019). Integrating and tracking the progress of SDGs to measure NDP progress and challenges not only reduces conducting repetitive research and reporting, but it also ensures that the SDGs are mainstreamed in sustainable development and there is a potential to accelerate the NDP objectives (South Africa's Voluntary National Review Report, 2019).

## Subnational context

Regional governments and their respective associations are essential to localizing SDGs and making progress towards achieving SDGs. They play an important role in enforcing the rights of the local government sector and constructively aid local government to deliver on its mandate. This promotes better multi-stakeholder and multi-level governance cooperation, transformative policies, transparency, and accountability.

## Local context

South Africa has a decentralized system of government with local government playing a critical role in service delivery and community development. Local government in South Africa is responsible for the delivery of basic services such as water, electricity, sanitation, housing, and waste management to its citizens. The Municipal Systems Act mandates municipal councils to develop and adopt a five-year Integrated Development Plan (IDP), which must be reviewed annually. Through prioritising, planning, and budgeting strategically, the IDP is a critical tool for resolving challenges and improving the quality of life for all citizens within the City of Johannesburg (CoJ). The IDP review process involves identifying key challenges, setting priorities, and developing strategies and action plans to address them. Integrating and monitoring the SDGs through the IDP guarantees the mainstreaming of sustainable development through our local development plans. Through the IDP, the CoJ can also leverage partnerships with other

stakeholders, to achieve common goals as outlined in our Joburg 2040 Growth and Development Strategy (GDS). The IDP emphasizes the need for community engagement and participation in the implementation of the plan.

## 4 STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT TO NATIONAL PLANS AND FRAMEWORKS

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### The National Development Plan

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 serves as a blueprint to enhance the capability of the State and its leaders to solve the country's complex problems by 2030. The NDP offers a long-term development perspective providing overarching goals for what South Africa wants to achieve by 2030. The NDP seeks to address the following development challenges:

- Poverty and unemployment
- Poor quality of education
- Inadequate and poor infrastructure
- Spatial divide
- Unsustainable and stagnant economy
- Poor public health system
- Poor public services
- High levels of corruption
- South Africa remains a divided society

### The Integrated Urban Development Framework

In line with SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda (NUA), South Africa's national urban policy, the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF), guides transformation of the urban space in a manner that promotes inclusive social and economic development, while promoting urban resilience and protection of the urban environment. The Draft National Spatial Development Framework as well as the IUDF recognises that the country has different types of cities and towns, which have different roles and requirements. The framework aims to steer urban growth towards a sustainable model of compact, connected and coordinated towns and cities, directed by four overall strategic goals:

- Access
- Growth
- Governance
- Spatial Transformation

To create liveable, safe, resource-efficient cities and towns that are socially integrated, economically inclusive, and globally competitive, where residents actively participate in urban life.

## The District Development Model

The District Development Model (DDM) was adopted in 2019. At the heart of the model is a new integrated approach to address the pattern of operating in silos. Through it, the three spheres of government will cooperate in a coordinated manner led by the inter-ministerial committee on district level service delivery. The objective is to unblock bottlenecks and fast track service delivery by focusing on implementation at a district level, accelerating and aligning governments' plans and projects across spheres of government, various departments, and urban and rural linkages by focusing on:

- Managing urbanisation, growth, and development.
- Supporting local economic drivers.
- Accelerating land release and land development.
- Investing in infrastructure for integrated human settlement, economic activity, and the provision of basic services.
- Addressing service delivery in municipalities.

## Growing Gauteng Together 2030

Growing Gauteng Together 2030 (GGT2030) is the Gauteng Provincial Government's contribution to building a better nation and is part of deepening the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) in pursuit of the South Africa envisioned in the Freedom Charter, the Constitution, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Africa we want, as outlined in the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063. The key priorities of the GGT 2030 are:

- Building a Capable Ethical and Developmental State
- Economy, Jobs, and Infrastructure
- Education, Skills Revolution and Health
- Sustainable Development for Future Generations
- Integrated Human Settlements, Basic Services and Land Release
- Safety, Social Cohesion and Food Security
- A Better Africa and a Better World

## Joburg 2040 Growth and Development Strategy (GDS)

The City's long-term Joburg 2040 GDS is an aspirational strategy that defines the type of society the City aspires to be. The strategy states the City's resolve to advancing four inter-related drivers: human and social development, environmental and infrastructure development, inclusive economic development, and governmental development. A whole of society approach to sustainable development across each of these drivers, without compromising the others, is essential for realising our vision of a resilient, sustainable, and liveable city. This approach enables us to respond to both current and emerging challenges as they arise. The development model for the City's long-term planning is centred on four outcomes that are aligned to the SDGs as follows:

- Improved quality of life and development-driven resilience for all.
- Provide a resilient, liveable, sustainable urban environment – underpinned by smart infrastructure supportive of a low-carbon economy.
- An inclusive, job-intensive, resilient, competitive, and smart economy that harnesses the potential of citizens.
- A high performing, smart metropolitan government that pro-actively contributes to and builds a sustainable, socially inclusive, locally integrated, and globally competitive Gauteng City Region.

Joburg 2040 GDS provides a set of defined strategic directions that frame the five-year IDP and other medium-term plans.

## Integrated Development Plan (IDP)

The City of Johannesburg's (CoJ) IDP contains specific five-year operational activities, targets, and financial budgets. The City's administrative focus should be on ensuring that the IDP's priorities are translated into actionable policies, programmes, and projects. The administrative focus should also ensure that the plan's objectives are met through effective resource allocation, monitoring, and evaluation. The IDP reflects the evolving needs of the city and its residents.

The CoJ is committed to implementing its 11 Mayoral priorities, which are presented in the IDP, through effective administration. To achieve this, the following strategies will be employed:

- **Good Governance:** The City will enhance transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in decision-making processes through improved communication, public consultations, and the use of technology.
- **Financial Sustainability:** A comprehensive plan will be developed to improve revenue collection, billing systems, and financial management practices. Expenditure will be streamlined, and investments will be prioritized to ensure long-term financial sustainability.



- **Energy Mix:** The City will develop a detailed plan to transition to a diverse and sustainable energy mix, including increased reliance on renewable energy sources and the promotion of energy efficiency initiatives.
- **Sustainable Service Delivery:** High-quality and reliable services will be delivered to all residents, with a focus on historically underserved areas. Resources will be allocated strategically to address service delivery gaps and improve access for all.
- **Infrastructure Development and Refurbishment:** Key infrastructure projects will be prioritized and closely monitored to ensure timely completion within budget, enhancing connectivity, mobility, and access to essential services.
- **Job Opportunity and Creation:** CoJ will actively promote job creation, particularly in green energy, technology, and infrastructure sectors, while ensuring equity and inclusivity in employment opportunities.
- **Safer City:** Public safety will be improved through community policing initiatives, investment in technology and infrastructure, and increased resources for law enforcement to create a safer environment for residents.
- **Active and Engaged Citizenry:** Citizen participation in government decision-making will be encouraged through community-based planning meetings, participatory budgeting, and improved feedback mechanisms to foster an active and engaged citizenry.
- **Sustained Economic Growth:** The CoJ will attract new businesses and investment, with a particular focus on green energy, technology, and infrastructure sectors. Inclusive economic growth will be promoted to ensure equitable opportunities for all.
- **Green Economy:** The growth of the green economy will be promoted through increased investment in green manufacturing, renewable energy, energy efficiency initiatives, and sustainable agriculture and food security to create a more environmentally sustainable and resilient city.
- **Smart City:** Technology will be leveraged to improve service delivery, reduce waste, and enhance energy efficiency. Smart management systems, public Wi-Fi, and digital e-government services will be implemented to create a more connected and efficient city.

The CoJ's IDP is not only a reflection and advancement of national priorities and programs such as, the NDP, DDM and the IUDF, but is also aligned to global agendas such as SDGs and Agenda 2063. The City's IDP aims to achieve the SDGs by prioritizing sustainable economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. This strategic alignment, from the global to the local, is represented in Figure 3 below.

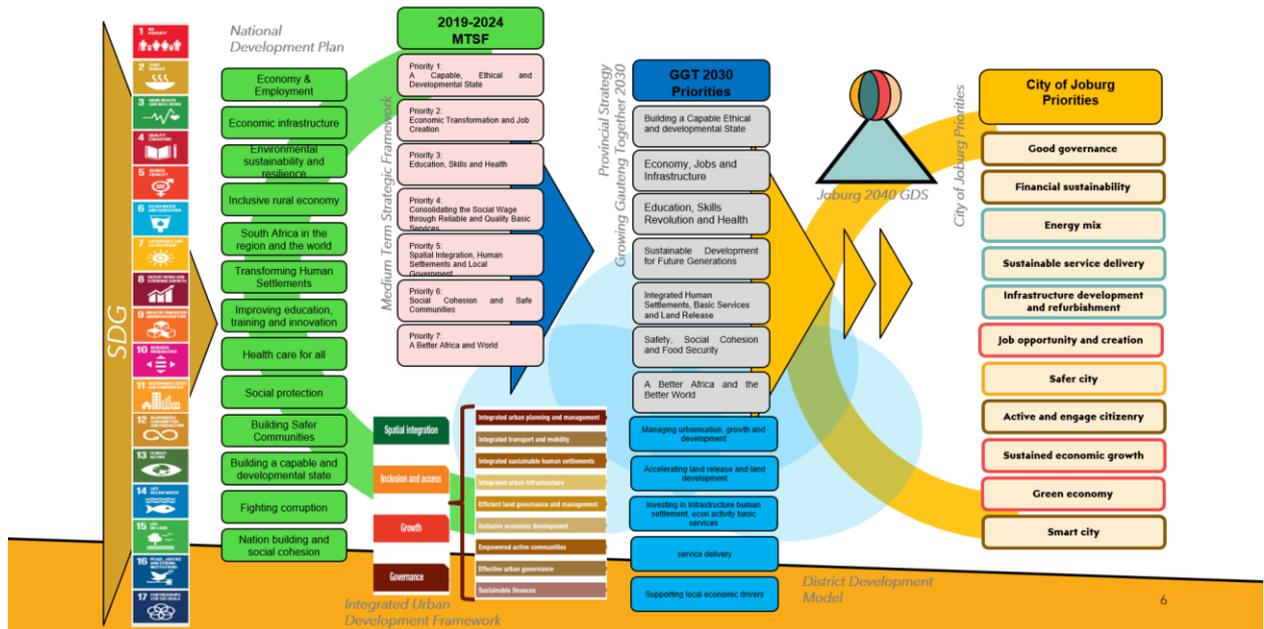


Figure 3: International, national, and local policy alignment, City of Joburg.

## 5 COMMUNITY PROFILE

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Johannesburg, or Joburg, is South Africa's biggest city. The city began in 1886 as a gold-mining settlement and quickly transformed into the largest city in the country and South Africa's prime economic hub. Today, the city continues to attract people looking for opportunities. Johannesburg's local government has evolved over time, from a segregated system during apartheid to a democratic and representative government. Currently, the city is governed by a coalition, with a focus on improving infrastructure, addressing social and economic inequality, and promoting sustainable development.

### Demographics

The current population of the Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality is estimated to be 4.8 million, making it the biggest metro by population size in South Africa. The city's population constitutes about 32% of the Gauteng population and 8% of South Africa's overall population (Census, 2022). The 2022 population pyramid of Johannesburg shows a sizable young population, with 38% aged 15-34. The sex ratios are well balanced with males making up 50,4% and females 49,6% of the population respectively. The city also has a large working-age population (73% between 15-64 years old) (Census, 2022). This demographic mix presents both opportunities and challenges. As the economic powerhouse of South Africa, Johannesburg offers many jobs and generates 17% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) but unemployment is high and rising. The vast majority (>90%) of the population have access to quality, basic services, which is higher than the national averages, but unfortunately, there are at least 312 informal settlements within the City where about 10% of the population live in overcrowded, slum-like conditions (City of Johannesburg, 2023). Overall, communities rate their quality of life and satisfaction with municipality provided services fair at 62% and 61%.

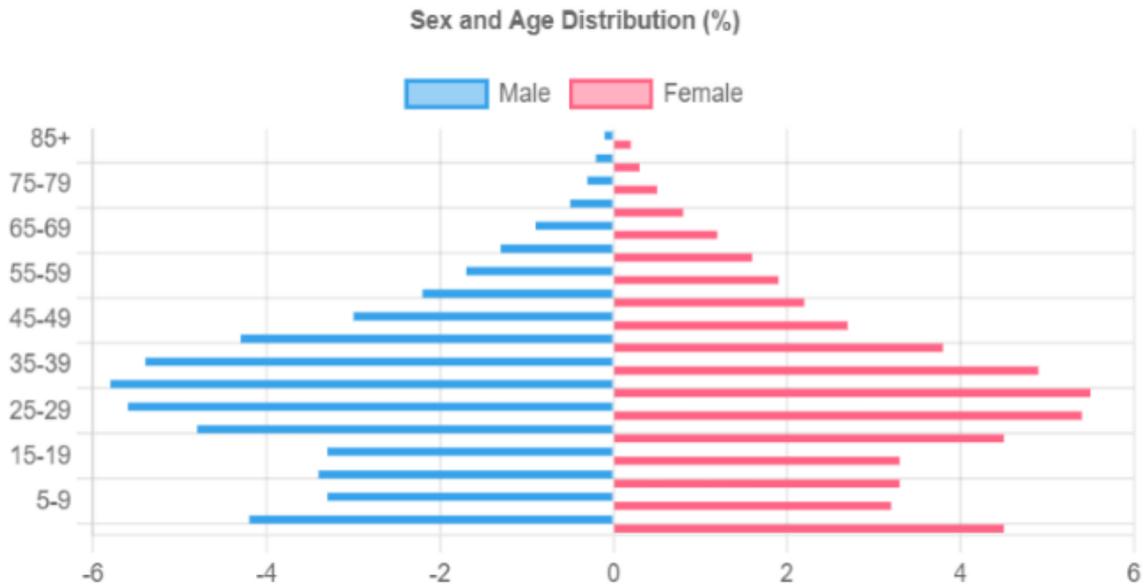


Figure 4: Population by sex and age distribution (%), City of Joburg. Source: Census 2022

## Developmental overview

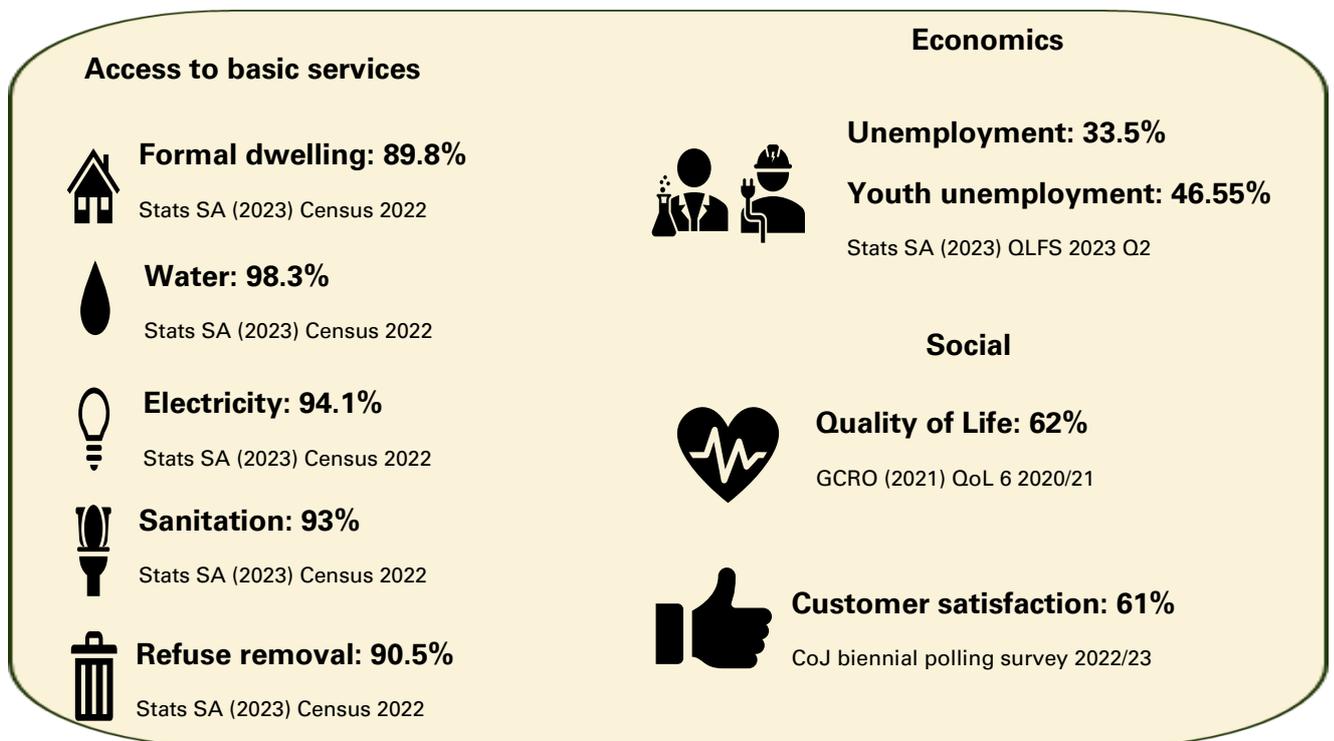


Figure 5: Developmental Overview Infographic, City of Joburg.

## 6 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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The 2030 Agenda has reached halfway and there have been many crises that may cause reversal in the progress already achieved. According to The Sustainable Development Goals report 2023, wars around the world, climate change, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and other global challenges are threatening to derail progress made towards SDGs. The lack of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals is universal, but it is abundantly clear that developing countries and the world's poorest and most vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of our collective failure (UN DESA, 2023).

Many of the CoJ's challenges and opportunities tie in with SDG Goal 11 targets. Such as, ensuring the provision of adequate housing and safe public transport; developing a spatially just city with and good urban density, bridging the digital divide, and building safe, inclusive, and resilient communities for our people.

The provision of quality housing has been a priority issue for the City of Johannesburg, but also a fundamental challenge. There continues to be a deficit, particularly in informal settlements, sometimes called townships, (low-income households residing on un-proclaimed land, not zoned for development) where many of the households have no access to electricity or quality sanitation. The rapid, unplanned mushrooming of these settlements hampers proactive development planning and strains local resources and infrastructure. High population growth and illegal land occupation worsen the existing housing backlog. Additionally, a rise in unsafe, illegal connections, particularly to electricity, increases hand in hand with informal dwellings springing up across the city. This burdens the current formal infrastructure further. The City of Johannesburg is working to upgrade informal settlements, with basic services, emergency access and tenure security (City of Johannesburg, 2023).

The City of Johannesburg, as outlined in its Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for 2023, prioritizes fostering resilience at various levels, including the institution, individuals, communities, and the city itself. In doing so, gender is acknowledged as a critical lens, with a focus on addressing the interconnected relationship between public health and the economy, particularly the vulnerability of women and children in households (IDP, 2023). The IDP emphasizes the need to tackle gender-based violence and provide adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene services to settlements.

In terms of women's development and empowerment, the CoJ has implemented various programs to promote gender equality. The Quality of Life Survey V 2017/2018 data demonstrates that there has been an improvement in women's reported satisfaction with life and education levels, with more women attaining tertiary education (GCRO, 2018).

In terms of employment equality, women make up 45% of the employment forced within the City's local government (IDP, 2023). Efforts to increase women's economic

participation in the private sector have been made through programs such as skills development and support for women entrepreneurs. Despite progress, challenges such as high levels of unemployment among women and disparities in income compared to men persist – in 2017 the majority of women still earned incomes below R6400 per month, relative to 35% of men (GCRO, 2018).

Safety programs, particularly those addressing gender-based violence, which is a serious issue in South Africa, have not yet shown significant impact, highlighting the need for more intervention. As such the CoJ recently carried out Awareness Session Roadshows in partnership with Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) organizations and other spheres of government to raise awareness on these issues and to stand in solidarity with women and children (CoJ, 2023). Since 2006, more healthcare programs have focused on women’s health and reproductive health, but there has been a decrease in the percentage of women using public and private healthcare interchangeably since 2017, possibly due to concerns about quality of care and long wait times (GCRO, 2018).

Alongside promoting equality, accessibility, in a practical sense, is another vital urban challenge. The ability of people to move smoothly and timeously between their places of work, home and recreation is what helps make cities efficient and liveable. Johannesburg’s spatial landscape is largely a consequence of its history. Apartheid planning contributed to urban sprawl, with race-based townships deliberately developed on the periphery of the city, away from opportunities and resources. The bulk of the metropolitan area features low density suburban neighbourhoods enjoyed by a few residents, while around one third of all Joburg inhabitants by contrast, live on only 5% of the metropolitan area in densely populated and often overcrowded townships, far away from places of work (Spatial Development Framework 2040, 2016). This inequitable spatial arrangement contributes to unequal access to quality services and a job housing mismatch, whereby the majority must endure long and costly commutes to access economic opportunities. In response, the City of Johannesburg aims to achieve development-driven resilience for all. The City of Johannesburg will bring jobs to housing centres, provide sustainable services, and improve people’s quality of life in Johannesburg.

In Joburg, more than half all of households (52%) spend more than 10% of their income on transport per month (Stats SA, 2022). These costs are mostly borne by, and disproportionately impact, poorer households. Despite advances in Metrobus and Rea Vaya bus rapid transit system (BRT), Johannesburg is still an automobile-centred city, dominated by private cars and minibus taxis. To enhance public transport uptake, the City of Johannesburg will strive to realise efficient, affordable (low carbon) public transport systems which integrate with other metros across the Gauteng City Region (GCR). Providing a quality, reliable and safe mass public transport service is critical for Johannesburg businesses and residents.

The CoJ is facing a challenge in terms of access to accurate and granular data, which is essential for effective planning and a detailed understanding of population dynamics. During the stakeholder validation engagement, community members noted that they feel that reported data does not always reflect the reality on the ground. The City should invest more in its data gathering methods and partnerships and improve data storage capacity using technology. Community members suggested that a useful intervention could be the development of a transparent data portal by local government, where the public is provided with access to information on city processes and community members are enabled to comment, share, and contribute through a live interface.

Finally, seeing digital access / digital rights as a basic service is becoming an increasing important topic for municipalities around the world. In Johannesburg, it is important to overcome the digital divide to promote equality. Positively, only 14% of households reported having no access to internet in Gauteng and 94% of households own a cell phone (Stats SA, 2023). To ensure that more people from all walks of life have equal access to the internet, our interventions include providing free WiFi to better connect youth to learning and employment opportunities. If the City of Johannesburg can provide WiFi, citizens will be able to benefit from smart services. The development of an integrated smart city, including townships, will ensure that all people can be a part of the 4th Industrial Revolution. This goes hand in hand with better supporting entrepreneurs so that jobs are created, and income is retained within communities.

## **External stakeholder feedback**

This report was workshopped with members of the community before finalisation. Some of the key challenges and opportunities expressed during that interactive session are captured below:

Sometimes, there is a lack of understanding about the government's role, or actual breakdowns occur in relationships between different levels of government, known as intergovernmental relations (IGR). This can result in negative relationships between (local) government and communities. This is evidenced firstly, by very complex regulatory policies, for example on issues related to energy management and policing. Secondly, at times the roles and responsibilities of different spheres and departments of government, even internally, can be unclear. Thirdly, communities typically do not distinguish between spheres of government – if they are facing a service delivery challenge it is perceived as the fault of government generally. Linked to this, often the policy environment is strong, but implementation and follow through is a real challenge. As an example, external stakeholders expressed that there is no clear indication of who is responsible for the enforcement of bylaws, and this impacts accountability when bylaws are not being enforced effectively. On a positive note, we are witnessing changes in the regulatory environment regarding energy, with a shift towards more decentralised opportunities. For instance, municipalities can now contract with Independent Power Producers (IPPs). In sum, national, provincial, and local



governments need to work together efficiently to bring sustainable solutions to challenges faced within our communities.

Multi-stakeholder forums need to be robust and strong enough to hold the City to its plans even if there is a change in political leadership or political instability. Stakeholder forums must not be suffocated by government bureaucracy but need to amplify the views and voices of the people on the ground. These forums should ensure that stakeholder input from public participation sessions is expressed in the City's plans, so that the plans strongly articulate the issues, hinderances and proposed solutions that communities have identified for impacting our progress towards sustainable development.

The City should prioritise partnerships and implementation interactions and with companies demonstrating Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), a business model that integrates social and environmental concerns into business operations, as well as with NGOs who are already on the ground working with communities.

## **7 METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THIS VLR**

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SDG Goal 11 which centres on cities and their role in the attainment of sustainable development objectives represents a shift in the focus on global development. The inclusion of Goal 11 to "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" is, in large part, the fruit of the hard-fought campaign by local governments, their associations and the urban community. SDG 11 marks a major step forward in the recognition of the transformative power of urbanization for development, and of the role of city leaders in driving global change from the bottom up (UCLG, 2015).

However, the role of local administrations in the achievement of the agenda goes far beyond Goal 11. All the SDGs have targets that are directly or indirectly related to the daily work of local and regional governments. Local governments should not be seen as mere implementers of the agenda. Local governments are policy makers, catalysts of change and are the level of government best placed to link the global goals with local communities (UCLG, 2015).

Local governments are drivers of change and have a major role to play in implementing SDGs. Therefore, the City of Johannesburg began the journey of localizing SDGs by creating an SDGs reporting framework during the 2022/23 financial year. This project was undertaken by the Strategy and Research unit within the City's Group Strategy Policy Coordination and Relations, which reports to the Office of the City Manager. The project involved developing a detailed blueprint for the City of Johannesburg's institutional SDG reporting system, including recommendations for organized reporting. This phase also included drafting a questionnaire and interviewing relevant CoJ departments to understand any programs/projects contributions towards the SDGs. The SDGs tracking/reporting framework was workshopped with selected CoJ

stakeholders. The tool was developed so that it could be updated annually by the CoJ and to be easily accessible and user-friendly for various CoJ departments. It is compatible with the City's current Information Technology (IT) systems to avoid additional financial implications. Additionally, it includes a publicly accessible visual reporting component to enhance transparency and promote awareness of the SDGs. This component serves as a call to action for communities to participate and to hold the CoJ accountable.

As a major city in South Africa, the CoJ has acknowledged the importance of the SDGs and the need to track progress and challenges at a local level. The CoJ has identified the need to increase the focus on SDGs tracking within the city with the main objectives of assisting long-term planning, the strategic importance of being capable to report about SDGs progress and challenges, as well being able to draw useful comparisons both locally and globally. A challenge exists as there is no standardised framework or methodology for SDG reporting at a local level, as well as little to no vertical and horizontal integration between the different levels of government within South Africa. As a result, the CoJ developed its own unique methodology of data collection, data sources and progress tracking framework.

## Data collection

Table 1: An overview of the criteria used for selecting SDGs, targets, and indicators for CoJ.

Step	Title	Description	Actions
1	Remove irrelevant SDGs, Targets, and indicators	This step excludes the SDGs, targets, and indicators that are not relevant to the CoJ and do not need to be tracked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove irrelevant geographic goals, targets, and indicators.</li> <li>Remove goals, targets, and indicators that do not align with strategic development.</li> </ul>
2	Adhere to the Municipal Mandate	CoJ has municipal mandate responsibilities as per the Constitution and these overlap with the SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Align SDGs with municipal mandate matters.</li> <li>Use aligned SDGs to assist with municipal mandate responsibilities</li> </ul>



			and progress monitoring and evaluation
<b>3</b>	Alignment with Strategic Plans	This step involves identifying existing reporting frameworks and data sources that can be utilised in SDGs tracking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify existing indicator-based reporting systems.</li> <li>• Align existing indicators to SDGs, targets, and indicators</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	Data Availability	This step involves determining the availability of data to be used in the SDGs tracking platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the data used in existing reporting systems.</li> <li>• Ensure that the identified data will be collected continuously in the future.</li> <li>• Establish accessibility channels to the required data sources for use by the developed SDGs reporting platform.</li> </ul>



## Developing this Voluntary Local Review and Prioritised SDGs

During the 2023/24 financial year, the City of Johannesburg applied and was accepted for support on localizing the SDGs through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) programme. This programme was facilitated by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in partnership with the National Planning Commission (NPC) as voluntary reviews are nationally led and driven; as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the New York-based United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and Stats SA who provided direct technical support to municipalities to develop VLRs. This programme also involved several other municipalities in South Africa. There was an opportunity for collaboration and knowledge sharing amongst municipalities which enhanced horizontal integration within local government.

The CoJ's vision is to be sustainable, liveable, and resilient. As part of its constitutional mandate, the City of Johannesburg has prioritized providing basic services to its citizens. Therefore, this VLR will mainly focus on SDG Goal 11 and bring in other Goals through linkages to Goal 11 shown on the diagram below.

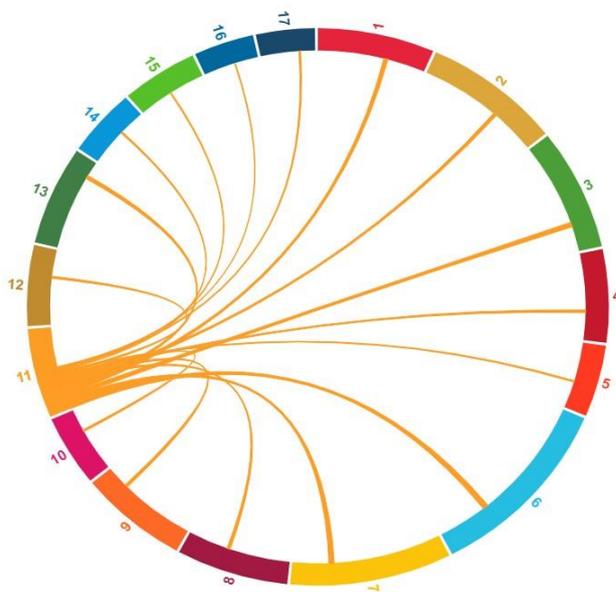


Figure 6: Linkages to SDG Goal 11. Know SDGs, <https://knowsdgs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/interlinkages/goals>

As mentioned above, the CoJ's constitutional mandate prioritises providing basic services to its citizens. In this way, the CoJ recognises critical interlinkages between SDG 11 and SDGs 6 and 7 which, from an infrastructure and service delivery lens, directly contribute to sustainable cities and communities.

As such this VLR shall report on the interlinkages between Goal 11 and:

- Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation

- Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Furthermore, considering the 2024 High-Level Policy Forum (HLFP) theme “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions” it was agreed that this VLR will include those SDGs that are to be prioritized by the 2024 HLFP and interlink these to Goal 11:

- Goal 1: No Poverty
- Goal 2: Zero Hunger
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

COJ also acknowledges the significant connections between these other SDGs and SDG 11. Viewing these interlinkages from a “people perspective” centred on human development and good governance, they also contribute to the development of sustainable communities.

## **Process for review**

In the process of drafting the VLR, two stakeholder engagements were conducted in person. The first stakeholder engagement involved internal departments and entities of the City of Johannesburg. The second stakeholder engagement involved external stakeholders. At both sessions the draft VLR was presented, and a questionnaire was shared to gather direct inputs towards the VLR from participants. For the external session, organizations that work with communities were targeted and mapped to the SDGs according to their specific area of work. These engagements showcased how the principle to leave no one behind was translated into practice, as representatives of those considered furthest behind, such as people living in poverty, women, and youth were key participants. Participants included Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), academia, civil society, and the private sector. There were two additional follow-up engagements with the private sector and community-based organizations that were conducted online.





Gender split: 54% Women  
LGBTQIA+ participation



Youth: Representative from partnership between University of Johannesburg & University of the Witwatersrand



Marginalised: Representatives from homeless shelters & informal settlement upgrade programmes

*Figure 7: Stakeholder engagement sessions include representation from those considered furthest behind*

## Final stakeholder validation workshop

The final draft of this report was presented for validation and workshopped with members of the community. Eighty people, primarily youths, along with various community organizations, attended the event. African Monitor, an independent body to monitor development commitments, provided facilitation and logistical support. Participants agreed with the main findings in the VLR and verified that it was largely accurate in their experience. At the same time, there was a sentiment expressed that the CoJ needs to do more, especially in response to the poor living conditions in informal settlements. While it is not always practical to do, stakeholders did raise concerns that community proposed solutions are not necessarily implemented by the CoJ.

## Data sources

To ensure that the quantitative data supporting this VLR is of high quality, only sources approved by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) were used to report against SDG indicators. These included Stats SA national census data, the Gauteng-City Region Observatory's (GCRO) Quality of Life survey and the South African Cities Network: Urban Safety Reference Group's State of Urban Safety in South Africa Report 2021/22. Additionally, various other datasets were consulted in compiling the VLR, such as Stats SA's Quarterly Labour Survey (QLFS) and General Household Survey Selected Development Indicators, Metros, and the CoJ's audited Integrated Annual Report.

Stats SA is a national government department mandated to produce and coordinate official statistics. The Statistician-General is mandated to fulfil the country's international statistical reporting obligations and Stats SA coordinates the country-level reporting for South Africa on the SDGs. To measure the extent to which South Africa can deliver on developmental frameworks, Stats SA created the Integrated Indicator Framework (IIF) as a tool to coordinate the reporting on global, continental, regional and national development agendas (Stats SA, N.D.). This coordination tool helps in identifying the data gaps, eliminating duplication of data and contradictory estimates

as well as assisting in identification of strategic statistical priorities for South Africa. Disaggregation of data to local government is still a challenge.

The Quality of Life (QoL) survey, collected every two years, has developed into one of the largest social surveys in South Africa and provides spatially fine-grained insights into the lives of the Gauteng City-Region (GCR) residents (GCRO, 2023). QoL data is collected via in-depth, in-person interviews and it can be analyzed at the provincial, municipal and ward levels. This provides value given the diverse population and extremely high levels of inequality in the GCR. The survey measures the quality of life, socio-economic circumstances, perceptions of service delivery, psycho-social attitudes, value-base and other characteristics of residents in the GCR. It has been recognized for providing high quality data at extremely low levels of geography. Furthermore, it represents an invaluable resource for provincial and local government in the province, as well as for numerous academic and non-profit research projects. Moreover, this type of public community survey presents the City of Johannesburg with a tool to be able to hear what our communities are feeling. It is therefore another form of direct resident input contributing to the VLR.

## Way forward

The City of Johannesburg is committed to engaging the community members to uphold the principle of leaving no one behind. Therefore, going forward the City of Johannesburg will mainstream SDGs through community engagement of the IDP review that is done every year.

The first round of IDP engagements (Community Based Planning Sessions) comprises of one-on-one engagements with the 135 wards of the City of Johannesburg. The second round of engagements is referred to as IDP Regional Summits together with targeted stakeholder sessions. These comprise of report back in the form of responsive projects and /or programs to the community and take place within the seven regions of the city as well as among a certain clustering of stakeholders, such as:

- Business cluster
- Women cluster
- People with disabilities cluster
- Youth cluster
- LGBTQIA+ cluster
- Faith-based Organizations cluster
- Creative Arts and Sporting Bodies cluster
- NGOs, Civic Organizations and Rate Payers cluster



## 8 CURRENT SDGs STATUS, LOCAL ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

### 8.1 GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



This goal aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The provision of basic services is vital to having a sustainable city and this forms part of the CoJ's core mandate. This provision must be efficient and inclusive of poor communities. Achieving this goal will require the CoJ to accelerate other goals which impact Goal 11 through interlinkages.

**Target 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.**

Johannesburg's current service delivery access levels are reasonably good. However, households in informal settlements experience immense inequalities in access to services. As a result, there are cases of communal responses to poor service delivery where residents in informal settlements install their own household connections or connect to services illegally to improve their access.

**Indicator 11.1.1.D: Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing.**

**19%** of households lived in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing during 2022

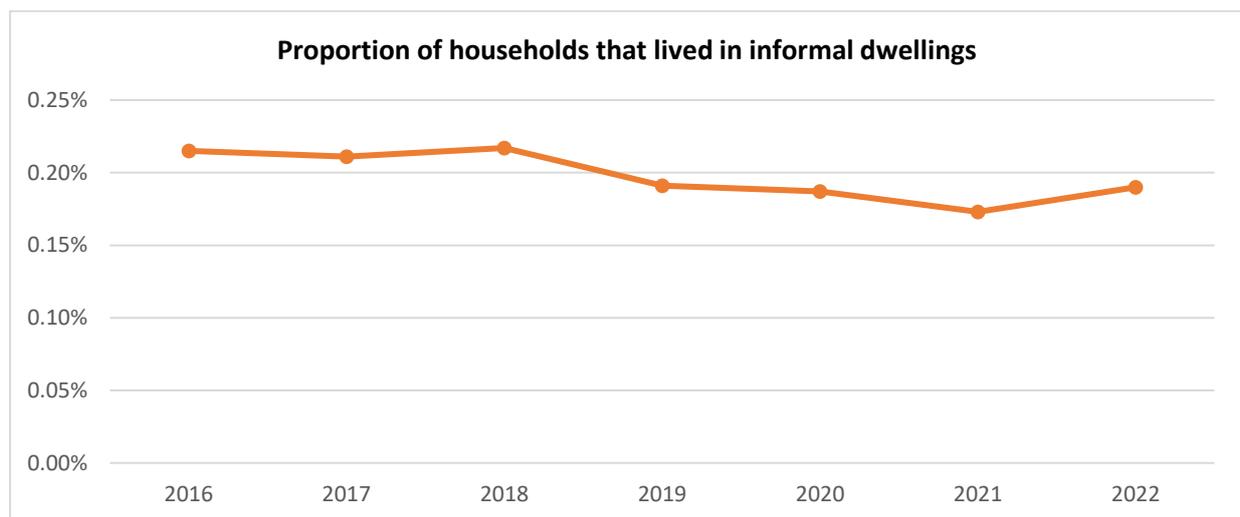


Figure 8: Households living in informal dwelling, City of Joburg. Source: Stats SA, General household surveys, 2016-2022

## Progress:

The proportion of households living in informal dwellings has decreased between 2016 and 2021 from 21.5% to 17.3%. However, there was an increase in 2022 to 19% (Stats SA, 2022). Overall, the trend is positive, but poverty and inequality remain persistent issues, with many residents living in informal settlements lacking basic services. Over the past two decades back yard dwelling<sup>1</sup> has increased significantly in Joburg, particularly in disadvantaged areas such as Soweto, Orange Farm and Diepsloot and more recently in inner city neighbourhoods and in new Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) settlements. Back yard dwelling, within Gauteng, grew at a faster rate (205%) than informal settlements (51%) from 2001 to 2016 (GCRO, 2018). This housing is often cheaper than social housing and more easily available, allowing young people to live cheaply and independently (Indlela Growth Strategies, 2020). Though back yard dwelling is cheap and convenient, it puts pressure on service delivery.

Community-Suggested and Ongoing Interventions<sup>2</sup> – Highlights from the Stakeholder Engagement Session:

- PlanAct, a civil society organization, has a programme that focusses on the rental housing market ideal for backyard dwellers. It is working with micro developers. CoJ should further engage PlanAct on this initiative.
- Partnerships with global entities such as Habitat for Humanity (encouraging people to build their own houses) will be crucial.
- Consider establishing a “transit camp” model to temporarily accommodate unallocated building occupants, refurbishing these structures for qualifying individuals. This approach may avoid legal entanglements while addressing housing needs effectively.

**Target 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.**

Metrobus was incorporated in 2000 and is a wholly owned Municipal Entity of the City of Joburg. The City appointed Metrobus in terms of the Service Delivery Agreement to provide bus transport services to the residents of Johannesburg. The mission of Metrobus is to provide accessible, safe, affordable, reliable, and environmentally friendly public transport through an efficient and sustainable bus service. According to the Quality of Life survey conducted during the 2020/21 financial year, 21% of respondents said they felt unsafe while in public transport and 20% of the respondents

<sup>1</sup> An informal structure erected for residential purposes on premises in addition to an existing dwelling unit.

<sup>2</sup> In many instances, these are familiar proposals, and the COJ is actively involved in similar interventions in various capacities.



felt unsafe while waiting for public transport (GCRO, 2021). Since safety is part of the mandate, Metrobus recently implemented free WiFi on the buses for passengers and a new fleet management system, called Eye on the Bus (Metrobus, 2022/23). This includes the following:

- An app that consumers can download to track the movement of buses depending on their preferred trip route.
- Cameras in the buses which will monitor the movement of buses and ensure safety for passengers in real-time.
- A device that will automatically count the number of passengers in buses in real-time to assist in route planning schedules; and
- A system that monitors bus operator's driving behaviour and rewards safe driving.

**Indicator 11.2.1D: Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport.**

**96%** of the population have convenient access to public transport

96% of respondents to the Quality of Life survey said they walk less than 20 minutes from their homes to a place they can access public transport (GCRO, 2021). This is an improvement from the 84% reported in the 2017/18 Quality of Life survey.

Transportation remains a challenge. According to 2011 Census data, female-headed households were significantly less likely to have access to a car, resulting in a stronger reliance on public transport systems. But female-headed households reported safety concerns and accessibility issues hindering their use of public transport, according to the 2017/2018 Quality of Life survey (GCRO, 2018). Addressing these challenges requires continued efforts and targeted interventions to ensure gender equality and improve the well-being of women in Johannesburg.

Community-Suggested and Ongoing Interventions – Highlights from the Stakeholder Engagement Session:

- In terms of public transport beyond taxis, there is a need for efficient access to sustainable mass rapid transport including trains and busses.
- In terms of safety and security on public transport. The CoJ could invest in community patrollers, similarly to the model applied in Alexandra Township, to ensure the safety of people at stations. SMMEs security companies can offer their tools and provide support to patrollers in communities.
- Enhancing the integration of different transport modes at stations can alleviate issues related to interconnectivity.



- The CoJ should consider reviving manufacturing sites located near townships to enable workers to walk or travel short distances to places of employment.
- Through brownfield development, revamp disused factories into accommodation units. This can help to close the job housing mismatch and so shorten commuting times.

**Target 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.**

## **181** good air quality days in 2021/22

The CoJ currently operates eight (8) ambient air quality monitoring stations and seven (7) were operational during the financial year. Three (3) of the seven (7) operational stations reported adequate data of more than 70%. The number of days with good air quality days for the 2021/22 financial year is 181 days out of 365 days which makes 50% (City of Johannesburg, 2023). This is an important indicator that demonstrates the severity of the air quality challenge in the city and the effectiveness of various measures that are deployed from time to time. The challenge with air quality is that it is hard to control the pollution because the cause may be outside of the city's borders and originates in close, neighbouring cities. The City has started with the implementation of the Air Pollution Control By-laws. During the financial year, six (6) permits were issued.

As part of its integrated waste management, the CoJ is effectively mitigating the emission of harmful Greenhouse Gases (GHG) from its landfills. A total of 1,575 tons (11%) of GHG reduction offset has been achieved, against the City's overall target of 28%. Moreover, the project generated 4,197.76 MWh of electricity from the landfill gas-to-energy process, which took place at the Robinson Deep, Marie Louise, and Goudkoppies landfill sites (City of Johannesburg, 2023).

Community-Suggested and Ongoing Interventions – Highlights from the Stakeholder Engagement Session:

- Prioritize and invest in air quality monitoring and control measures to address the negative impact of air pollution on the environment.
- It is crucial to develop targeted and effective programs and initiatives, as well as incorporate community input into IDPs, to mitigate air pollution and ensure ongoing monitoring towards improvement in public health outcomes.



**Indicator 11.6.1D: Proportion of municipal solid waste diverted from landfill out of total municipal waste collected.**

**90.5%** of households have their municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities by the municipality

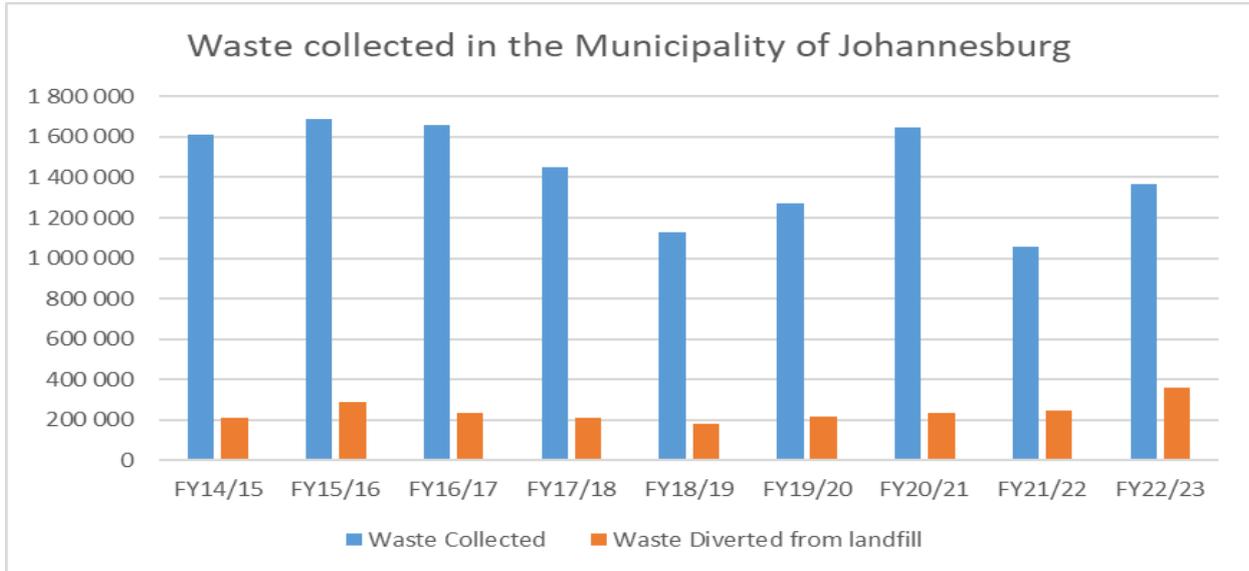


Figure 9: Waste collected in the City of Johannesburg, Source: City of Johannesburg.

According to Census 2022, the proportion of households that received waste collection services in the CoJ has decreased from 95.3% in 2011 to 90.5% in 2022 (Census, 2022). This indicates that there is a challenge for the City in providing adequate waste collection service to all households. However, the actual amount of waste collected by the CoJ remains high at an average of 1.4 million tonnages. On a positive note, the diversion rate (which is related to reuse and recycling) has improved from 20% in 2015/16. During the 2022/23 financial year, a total of 358,968 tons of waste was diverted from landfill because of the initiatives from the commercial sector and Pikitup (Municipal owned Entity) operations. This accounts for 26.2% of the total waste collected, which amounted to 1,367,985 tons (City of Johannesburg, 2023).

The CoJ, via its municipal owned entity, Pikitup, is striving to increase the percentage of all City informal settlements provided with integrated waste management services year-on-year. This includes the implementation of a waste collection system for high density areas e.g., backyard dwellers and informal settlements, and provision of adequate services that cater for all waste streams, including special waste streams like builder’s rubble. Linked to this, cleaning and dumping are pressing concerns within many neighbourhoods affecting public health and environmental well-being. By prioritizing this issue through its Community Based Planning Programme, the CoJ seeks to implement effective waste management strategies, educate communities about responsible waste disposal, and promote cleanliness throughout the city.



Community-Suggested and Ongoing Interventions – Highlights from the Stakeholder Engagement Session:

- Implement robust monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure that reported data from waste management service providers aligns with the realities on the ground. Furthermore, the CoJ should have someone overseeing the efficient waste collection process.
- There is a need to invest funds in local infrastructure, particularly waste disposal, and sewage systems, to protect rivers from pollution.
- Recycling solid waste is crucial for our city. Encourage residents to recycle by sorting and dropping households waste at designated collection points. Offer incentives to motivate residents to participate in waste disposal. CoJ can scale up diverting organic waste into compost and sell this to local farmers.

## What the City is doing

**Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP):** The CoJ is committed to provide 100% access to basic services, upgrade informal settlements, and build a sustainable, resilient, and liveable city for all. Through the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP), the CoJ is working to ensure that more sites are provided with in-situ<sup>3</sup> services, informal settlements are upgraded to sustainable human settlements with permanent infrastructure, and beneficiaries are issued with title deeds (City of Johannesburg, 2023).

**Kaalfontein Multipurpose Centre project:** This project involves building a multipurpose centre in Greater Ivory Park, a poor and underdeveloped neighbourhood, through providing an administration building, community hall, and sports facilities such as a gymnasium, pool, and library. It aims to address the lack of office space, community gathering areas, and recreational facilities in the overcrowded township. The construction of the facility forms part of the CoJ's strategy to meet an increasing demand for new and multifunctional social infrastructure and is intended to fulfil several broad objectives such as regeneration, transforming communities, skills growth, employment creation, improvement of quality of life and affording communities access to recreational spaces.

**Smart City Strategy:** The CoJ is developing a Smart City Strategy and has already established partnerships with knowledge partners, technology companies, research institutes and universities that are at the forefront of research and development. The CoJ is investing in improved connectivity and smart infrastructure, together with information and data gathering mechanisms. It is well regarded that being smart means

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<sup>3</sup> The progressive upgrading of an existing informal settlement through intervention by the municipality to create a habitable environment.



doing more with fewer resources and as such Smart cities are understood to improve resource efficiency. The CoJ aims to leverage technology to improve the quality of lives of residents and transform the city through innovative solutions to the delivery of basic services. The City has implemented interactive call centre systems, town planning solutions, automated meter reading, surveillance systems, and more. These are all integrated into a central hub for better monitoring and management of city services as part of Integrated Intelligent Operations Centre (IIOC). The City is also exploring the use of drones, robotics, and virtual reality in engineering and operations, while also incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning in the call centre for faster and more efficient resolution of citizen queries. Human Resource Management and Supply Chain Management work processes are being automated to increase efficiency.

## 8.2 INTERLINKAGES: ACCELERATING GOAL 11, SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH OTHER SDGs

The CoJ aims to achieve a sustainable city and communities through accelerating other goals which are interlinked to Goal 11. Poverty and hunger must be addressed to ensure sustainable communities. A resilient city must be able to withstand and respond to natural disasters, therefore climate action must be implemented in all strategic planning of the CoJ. Safety is also an important pillar for sustainable communities. This section will explore some of the Goals which form part of the CoJ's constitutional mandate and through their implementation have a direct impact on achieving Goal 11.

### 8.2.1 Goal 1: No poverty



The CoJ has experienced high unemployment rates which reached 40.9% in quarter 3 of 2021 (Stats SA, 2021; Stats SA, N.D.). Given this challenge, the importance of the informal economy is recognized. There is a direct link between poverty and unemployment since poverty has to do with one's inability to have enough income to access basic needs like food and water. Over the past decade, poverty has been increasing, exacerbated by the Covid-19 global pandemic and a high unemployment rate and inequality. During the pandemic, jobs were lost due to businesses closing down and this translated to losses of income, increasing poverty in the CoJ. Unequal development, both in physical spaces and digital opportunities, contributes to poverty and inequality. The City remains dedicated to alleviating poverty as well as providing services at no or little cost to those in need. Our focus is on empowering communities to become self-sufficient, fostering productivity and lifting people out of poverty.

**Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.**



The linkage between target 11.1 and target 1.4 is that both targets ensure access to basic services. Therefore, as the CoJ is improving access to basic services there is positive impact on these two targets. Overall progress has been made towards achieving the target through increased access to basic services over time.

**Indicator 1.4.1: Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services.**

**93% of households had access to basic services in 2022**

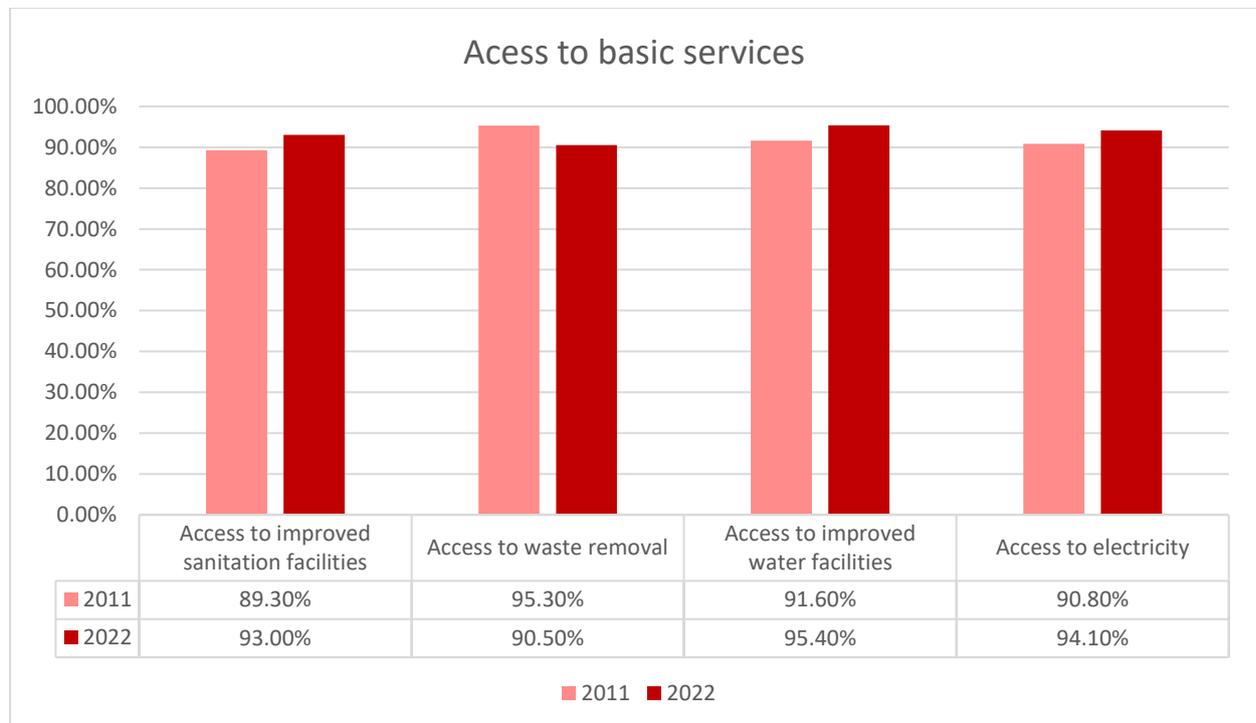


Figure 10: Access to basic services, Source: Census 2022

**Progress:**

Access to basic services such as electricity, improved sanitation and water have improved between 2011 and 2022. Current access to basic services is above an average of 90% with electricity at 94.1%, improved sanitation at 93%, improved water at 95.4% and waste removal at 90.5% (Census, 2022).

**What the City is doing**

**The Expanded Social Package (ESP) programme:** The Expanded Social Package (ESP) programme was introduced with the objective to provide improved relief to the City’s indigent and vulnerable households. The ESP is a basket of benefits which the CoJ allocates to its most vulnerable households. Qualifying citizens have access to Free Basic Services (FBS) such as rates, refuse, water, sewer, and electricity. Households



with different levels of need will qualify for different levels of subsidy according to the City's measure of poverty.

The CoJ offers the ESP programme to its most vulnerable citizens such as: the unemployed; displaced persons; senior citizens; persons with disabilities, and women and children. Individuals further qualify for referral for social service interventions and self-help programmes via the Social Benefits Unit, economic activity referrals via the Skills Unit and other programmatic interventions within Social Development Food Resilience Unit, Youth Unit, Displaced Persons Unit, and Persons with Disabilities Unit, including other City Departments. The positive impact of safety nets of poorer households accessing ESP is not only felt by the direct recipient, but it also has a multiplier effect for other household members.

The ESP is a register of indigent households in the City of Joburg that is fully digital, captures biometrics and can be accessed in-person or via an Online Application Process. Digitalization of ESP shows the City's ability to use technology as part of the solution to address challenges within communities. The total number of indigent households that benefitted from FBS for the year under review was 140,329 (City of Johannesburg, 2023).

**Expanded Public Works Program (EPWP):** The CoJ is committed to creating economic growth and reducing unemployment, with a special focus on the youth. As the economic growth hub of the country, Johannesburg attracts a vast pool of job seekers, including both skilled and unskilled labour. In line with its commitment to reducing unemployment, the city ensures that projects are implemented through the Expanded Public Works Program (EPWP) whenever possible. The focus of these opportunities is on the youth and women, who face the highest rates of unemployment. During the 2022/23 financial year, the City provided a total of 13,554 work opportunities through EPWP, and this figure is above the target of 12,250 (City of Johannesburg, 2023)

Through the EPWP, the city aims to create jobs and develop skills for the unemployed, which will enable them to secure sustainable livelihoods. The city's focus on youth and women's employment will help to address the high rates of unemployment and reduce poverty in Johannesburg. Overall, the city's commitment to increasing economic growth and reducing unemployment is critical in ensuring a better future for all its citizens.

## Community contribution

**U-turn Homeless Ministries:** U-turn Homeless Ministries has crafted an effective and innovative four phased skills-based programme designed by a team of social workers, homeless support workers, occupational therapists, counsellors, trainers, and life coaches. The journey out of homelessness starts with basic needs relief, like food and

clothing, available at U-turn's Support Centres. It continues to Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Support, and finally culminates in a work-based learnership that lasts on average 19 months, called the "Life Change" programme, which nurtures an individual's personal and vocational skills, as well as relapse prevention. The programme is Christian faith based, with long term results for rehabilitation and reintegration. Six months after graduating from the programme, more than 80% of participants remain sober and employed.

## Way forward

The city's high levels of poverty and inequality are reflected in the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities, with many communities experiencing marginalization and exclusion. Addressing these issues requires a multi-faceted approach, including investment in education and skills development, job creation, social protection, and equitable access to services and infrastructure. The city must prioritize and budget strategically, focusing on investing in essential services to support social mobility. This will help address the persistent issues of poverty and inequality, particularly in informal settlements where residents lack access to basic services. The CoJ needs to partner with the private sector and higher learning institutions to find solutions that will bridge the gap between skills required by the labour market and the skills taught at higher learning institutions.

### 8.2.2 Goal 2: Zero hunger



Food insecurity often begins with the loss of employment, which in turn leads to a significant degradation in living standards. It contributes to massive social costs in the form of healthcare, loss of productivity and earnings, social tension and compromised educational attainment. By corollary, ensuring people have access to nutritious food can help promote a healthy and productive population.

In the City of Joburg, as well as the rest of the country, food insecurity, already an ongoing developmental challenge, was exacerbated by the lockdown restrictions which impacted supply chains and distorted markets. There is evidence that suggests that South Africa is producing as much food now as before the Covid-19 outbreak and the lockdown (AgriSA, 2020). The challenge of food insecurity in the city therefore has less to do with supply shortages, but it is more related to problems associated with poverty, unemployment and lack of income that affects people's ability to access and afford food. Most households simply cannot afford a basic nutritious basket of food. In the longer term, however, supply constraints driven by the regional effects of climate change may drive up food prices in the city (EDSE, 2020); while unexpected supply chain interruptions, as we saw with Covid-19, may have a damaging impact on urban markets and food security. Eradicating food insecurity is thus a chief concern of the City of Johannesburg. Therefore, to support sustainable communities and have a positive

impact on poverty and food insecurity through interlinkages, it is important to study the nature of relationship between Goal 1, Goal 2 and Goal 11.

**Target 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round.**

Food security is critical to development and poverty alleviation. Without food, people cannot lift themselves out of poverty, while poverty in turn drives household food insecurity, creating a destructive cycle of impoverishment. If the intention of this priority is met in full, the experience of food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition will be a thing of the past. Johannesburg currently faces varied challenges regarding hunger and malnutrition among the urban poor, especially women and children. Food insecurity among the urban poor is high, especially in peri-urban areas and informal settlements. This challenge is exacerbated by the fact that most of the urban poor live far from the city centre, with much of their income spent on transport.

During 2022, 60.4% of learners attending public schools benefited from the national school nutrition programme in Johannesburg (Stats SA, 2022). About 269,629 food parcels were provided to indigent families across the city with the intention to provide temporary relief while the beneficiaries get introduced to other sustainable interventions (City of Johannesburg, 2023).

### Indicator 2.1.1: Prevalence of undernourishment

**25%** prevalence of undernourishment



Figure 11: % of people who skipped a meal at least once in the last 12 months. Source: GCRO Quality of life report 2020/21

## Progress:

According to the Quality of Life survey (QoL), in the 12 months of the 2020/21 financial year, 25% of people in Johannesburg skipped a meal at least once because there was not enough money to buy food (GCRO, 2021). This has worsened because of the devastating impact of the Covid-19 global pandemic. The percentage has increased from 2017/18 where 21% reported having had to skip a meal. In households with children, 20% reported that there had been a time during 2020/21 when there was not enough money to feed children, down from 21% in 2017/18. The impact of this is felt particularly strongly in poorer households (GCRO, 2021). With food prices increasing and the high unemployment rate, it is expected that the prevalence of undernourishment will increase.

## What the City is doing

The CoJ has introduced sustainable food security, agriculture, and agro-processing programmes to address high levels of poverty in deprived areas to create opportunities and employment for the poorest of the poor. The City aims to reduce hunger through three (3) types of food garden programmes:

- Homestead gardens
  - o Gardens are established in the back yards.
  - o City supports households with seeds and tools.
- Communal gardens.
  - o Gardens are established throughout the City using vacant spaces, schools, clinics, and underused land.
  - o Communal gardens are run by registered cooperatives and sell their produce in various markets.
- Aquaponic/Greenhouse.
  - o Aquaponic/Hydroponic farming systems are the preferred method to minimise water loss.

A total of 11,117 food gardens were established during the 2022/23 financial year across the seven regions of the city against the annual target of 8,000 (City of Johannesburg, 2023). The programme embarked on ensuring that food parcel beneficiaries establish their own food garden to complement the food hamper distributed by the City and reduce the dependency. Through partnerships with private sector, 130 agro-processors were established (City of Johannesburg, 2023). The agro-processing programme seeks to promote the agricultural value chain by identifying and supporting community members who are interested in processing agricultural products to add value before they supply their products to various markets.



## Community contribution

**Sizanani Project:** The Tshepo community development initiative is a community-based organization in partnership with the local church. This initiative has food gardens where people can earn vouchers to access services at Tshepo's service centre for the homeless. There is also training in traditional farming for the clients and beneficiaries to utilize the skills at home or at another space too. The goal of this initiative is to empower people to do things for themselves and become contributing members of our society again. The initiative also promotes healthy living and responsible living. Since the inclusion of food gardens, the Tshepo community development soup kitchen has grown, and a social worker was employed to assist with the more social related issues people face.

**Makers Valley Farm:** Provides support to local communities with growing food and placemaking<sup>4</sup> in the community by supporting local soup kitchens and other NGO's that are struggling with accessing supplies. Makers Valley Farm also sells to those that can afford. They are revitalizing illegal dumping hotspots and creating food gardens, fixing the soil for food production, and creating a clean, green, and safe environment in local neighbourhoods while providing employment to homeless communities.

## Way forward

The Food Hub programme at the Joburg Market (JM) which is a Municipal owned entity, will be enhanced to provide temporary relief to indigent households across the city to ensure that no one goes to bed hungry with the long-term plan to ensure that sustainable food production systems are implemented to create disposable income for families and contribute to local economic development. Presently the Joburg Market Food Hub serves thousands of weekly beneficiaries, distributing approximately 40 000 vegetable parcels per month (between Thursday and Friday) to a network of non-profit community agencies such as soup kitchens, orphanages, homeless shelters, poverty-stricken creches, disability centres, schools, old-age homes, and indigent families. The Food Hub also offers emergency food assistance to families in need (Radebe, 2023).

The roll out of a combination of interventions is necessary for this goal to be realized. This should include city planning considerations, promoting the accessibility of nutritious food, like ensuring easy access to affordable markets near public transport hubs. Moreover, efforts would need to focus on targeting improved food safety and nutrition, increasing domestic food production, and trading, and enhancing job creation

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<sup>4</sup> Placemaking is the process of designing, planning, and managing public spaces to improve the quality of life in a neighbourhood or city.



and income generation associated with agriculture and food production (all of which are elements of the City’s Integrated Food Security Strategy).

## 8.2.3 Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation



The CoJ is required by the constitution to provide clean water and sanitation to its residents. Clean water is essential for life and adequate sanitation is critical for a liveable community and a healthy environment. South Africa is one of the driest countries in the world. It ranks 29<sup>th</sup> out of 193 countries surveyed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), with an average annual rainfall of 450 mm/annum, or about 50% of the world average (Maluleke, 2023). South Africa imports nearly a quarter of its water from Lesotho through the Integrated Vaal River Water System.

**Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.**

**95% of households using safely managed drinking water services**

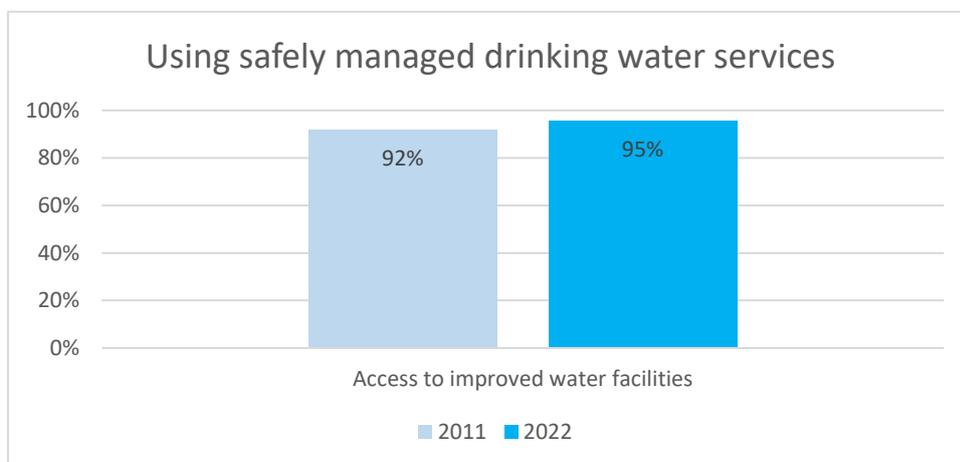


Figure 12: Using safely managed drinking water services. Source: Census 2022

### Progress:

Access to water is 95% and has improved between 2011 and 2022 as shown in Figure 12. Therefore, there has been progress towards achieving the target. The quality of water provided by the CoJ is excellent according to Blue Drop Watch Report which provides the status of drinking water. The CoJ scored 99.43% on Microbiological Compliance and 99.54% for Chemical Compliance (Department of Water and Sanitation, 2023).

19.14 kilometres of water pipes were replaced during the 2022/23 financial year and 21,670 water pipe bursts were fixed within 48 hours of notification. Additionally, 1,453

households gained access to basic water services, and 806.36 million litres of water were delivered to stationary tanks in informal settlements (City of Johannesburg, 2023). These efforts reflect a commitment to providing reliable water access to residents. However, close to half, 46.1%, of the CoJ’s water supply is non-revenue generating as it is lost to leaks, theft, or non-payment (City of Johannesburg, 2023). Upgrading the aging water infrastructure, such as pipes and water meters, would be a sustainable solution to address this challenge.

**Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.**

## 93% of households using safely managed sanitation services

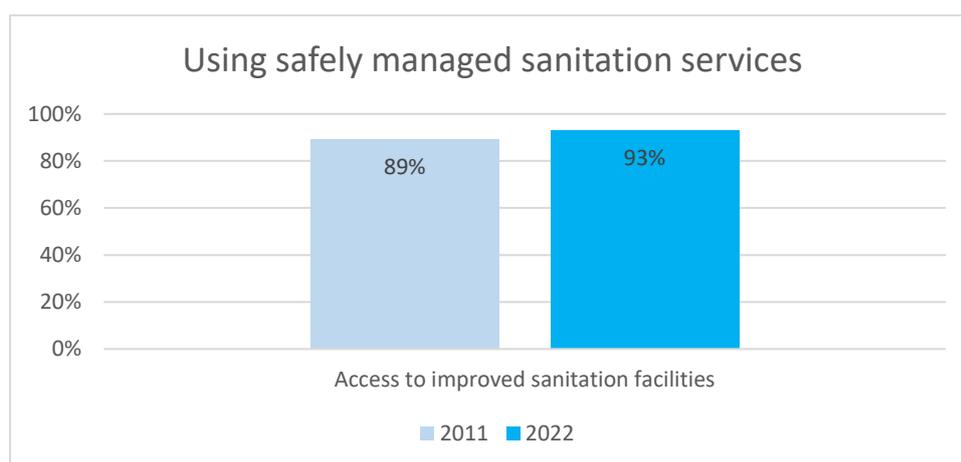


Figure 13: Using safely managed sanitation services. Source: Census 2022

### Progress:

A significant number of households depend on shared sanitation facilities in informal settlements. Aside from the cost and increased water consumption, solutions such as subsidised waterborne sanitation are often impossible to install in informal areas because of poor planning and settlement control. Access to sanitation in the CoJ is 93% and has improved between 2011 and 2022 as shown in Figure 13. Therefore, there has been progress towards achieving this target.

In the fiscal year 2022/23, the City of Johannesburg demonstrated steady commitment to service delivery, achieving notable milestones across essential services. 1,453 households gained access to clean water and 2,349 households were provided with basic sanitation (City of Johannesburg, 2023). The regular servicing of 14,192 chemical toilets further underscored the City's dedication to addressing pressing community needs in informal settlements (City of Johannesburg, 2023).



## What the City is doing

**Water security:** The CoJ aims to enhance water use efficiency by improving the City's infrastructure, distribution, and billing systems, promoting household and industrial grey water usage, and encouraging the scaling up of community rainwater harvesting to help the CoJ reduce high daily water usage. Importantly, the City is striving to positively influence consumer behaviour by creating awareness around its new Water Security Strategy and promoting a water saving culture among consumers. The City is also conducting a wide-scale audit of its water pipelines to better inform decisions around the replacement and refurbishment of infrastructure. In addition to these inward-looking measures, it is critical to understand that the provision of water must be addressed at a regional scale, through a water supply plan that integrates local-, provincial- and national government role-players. Notably, it is imperative to advance the Vaal River System including Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (Government Gazette, 24 July 2020). The CoJ will work closely with the regional (provincial) and national institutions on which it depends.

**Improved sanitation:** The CoJ needs to efficiently operate and maintain existing bulk sanitation infrastructure, upgrade wastewater treatment plants, address existing backlogs, and respond to the future demand of the City's growing population, especially in terms of providing sanitation facilities that are water-smart and sustainable. PlanAct, along with partner organizations and the CoJ are working in several informal settlements on the issue of Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) toilets as well as looking towards more innovative sanitation solutions. Through a new App, PlanAct is able to collect accurate and up-to-date information which will assist to extend our sanitation mapping, profiling and enumeration. This initiative will help tackle challenging data issues, especially in informal settlements. Such actions will be critical in achieving Target 6.2, access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, paying particular attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

## Community contribution

The river rehabilitation projects below, aim to protect, and restore water-related ecosystems, such as wetlands and rivers, while supporting and strengthening the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

**The Klipriviersberg Sustainability Association (KlipSA):** KlipSA is dedicated to the rehabilitation and restoration of the Klipriver wetlands, situated in the catchment area near the Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve. KlipSA collaborates closely with various stakeholders, including government departments, academia, private sector entities, community organizations, and environmental and water-focused organizations, to achieve its goals. The primary objective of the project is to enhance water quality, quantity, and security within the catchment areas and downstream for all users. KlipSA places a strong emphasis on community participation and engagement, advocating for



stewardship education, training, and implementation. To achieve its aims, KlipSA intends to employ nature-based solutions to improve the functionality of both current and future natural and constructed wetland areas.

**Alexandra Water Warriors:** The Alexandra Water Warriors is an ecotourism project and community development program centred on cleaning the Jukskei River and the streets of Alexandra, a primarily low-income informal settlement. With 1,500 volunteers, the project focuses on awareness campaigns and skills development as part of its implementation plan. The initiative has successfully generated employment opportunities and fostered sustainable relationships with government, private sectors, and communities. Additionally, the group has established a recycling station, initiated a recycling business, and gained recognition from the United Nations and other global environmental institutions.

## 8.2.4 Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy



Approximately 80% of Johannesburg's energy is generated by Eskom (State owned Entity) coal-fired power plants (City Power, 2018/19). As a signatory to the Paris Agreement on climate change, South Africa has committed to reducing carbon emissions. This implies it will gradually close most of the existing coal plants. The decrease in costs of renewable energy infrastructure has improved the economics of transitioning towards renewable energy globally.

City Power (Municipal Owned Entity) has developed a framework for the sourcing of alternative energy in response to the Minister of Energy empowering municipal distributors to procure power from sources other than Eskom. City Power has already secured power from multiple Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to start wheeling<sup>5</sup> electricity through the grid in a pilot project. The total capacity of 92MW mainly comprises PV solar generation (40.8MW), as well as gas to power (31MW) and waste to energy (20MW) (Madiba, 2023). Reducing dependency on coal and increasing renewables for the generation of electricity will be critical in achieving this goal. Diversification of the energy mix will help to reduce trade-offs between Goal 7 and Goal 13.

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<sup>5</sup> Wheeling is the process of transporting electricity from a generator to a user in a different location. Wheeling allows privately generated power to be transmitted across the national grid to customers, in a willing buyer/ willing seller model.



**Target 7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services.**

**94%** of households have access to electricity

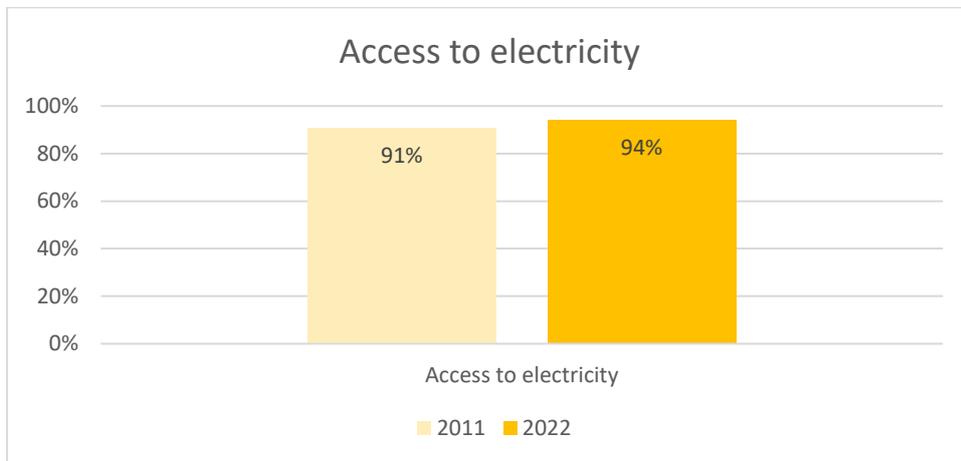


Figure 14: Access to electricity. Source: Census 2022

### Progress:

As shown in Figure 14, access to electricity is 94% and has improved between 2011 and 2022. Progress has been made to achieve this target.

### What the City is doing

**Solar micro-grid installation:** The CoJ through its wholly owned entity, City Power, is nearing completion of a first-of-its-kind micro-grid installation project in Alexandra, a low income, largely an informal settlement area. City Power embarked on the installation as an implementing agent of the Gauteng Energy Response Plan, which is part of the provincial government’s commitment to renewable energy and building sustainable power generation. The micro-grids are local electricity networks that serve small populations. They are usually powered by renewable resources and can function independently from a larger network. The 1MVA solar grid will provide electricity to about 500 households, with some power stored in batteries for night use (Joseph, 2024). This innovative and clean energy project will provide reliable electricity supply to the residents by harnessing the power of the sun. Once the pilot project in Alexandra proves effective, the solar micro-grids will be rolled out to 14 informal settlements in Gauteng as part of the energy crisis response plan. This will also create jobs and provide an enabling environment for local businesses to thrive, without being interrupted by loadshedding.

**Electric Vehicle (EV) charging:** These solar grids have been enabled to also accommodate charging stations for electric vehicles (Joseph, 2024). Partnering with

automotive businesses in the area that produce electric vehicles could significantly benefit the township economy. Close to 80 people from the area were hired, majority of them women. An additional 12 small, medium, and micro enterprises were also involved in project development.

## Way forward

It is critical that the CoJ accelerates the diversification of its energy sources and embraces renewables now, to safeguard a sustainable energy future. There are various possible opportunities for the achievement of this, including lobbying national government to actively pursue its own proposals for a more diversified grid mix; increasing the capacity of the CoJ to produce its own energy through Small-Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG), partnering with IPPs, and to consider alternate models where communities reap greater benefits from their own localised, renewable energy production and modular storage.

### 8.2.5 Goal 13: Climate action



The City's Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and the Green Book produced by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) provided critical evidence to inform the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP). Projections indicate that as climate change accelerates, the CoJ will continue to experience its increasingly harmful impacts, such as droughts and threats to water security, flooding, and heatwaves that pose a risk to human health. Historical records of climatic conditions demonstrate clear rising trends in temperature as well as rainfall variability and intensity. Average monthly temperatures in Johannesburg will almost certainly increase under all climate change scenarios. The data shows that average daytime temperatures have already increased nearly 1.5°C since 1981, while average night-time temperatures are almost 1°C higher than 40 years ago. This temperature increase constitutes a direct human health risk and increases the need for additional cooling, which could increase Johannesburg's energy demand (EISD, 2021).

#### **Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.**

Temperatures in Sub-Saharan Africa are projected to increase far higher than the global average and could rise by 2-3 degrees Celsius by 2050 if action is not taken (EISD, 2021). This will increase the risk and frequency of periods of extreme heat, drought, and flooding in many areas in the city, the impacts of which will be exacerbated by ageing infrastructure. These extreme weather events are likely to negatively affect the health of Johannesburg's communities.



## Indicator 13.1.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

In response to the above, the CoJ has adopted disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

### Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.

The CoJ has developed a CAP, aligning with the Paris Agreement's objectives. The City's CAP is a strategic plan with the objective to prioritize evidence-based transformational actions, to transition the CoJ towards an emission neutral, climate resilience city by 2050. The CAP is a city-wide action plan to be actioned by the City administration (including the city's Municipal Entities), private sector, civil society, and youth.

## Indicator 13.2.2: Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

**20.9 MtCO<sub>2</sub>** greenhouse gas emissions in 2016

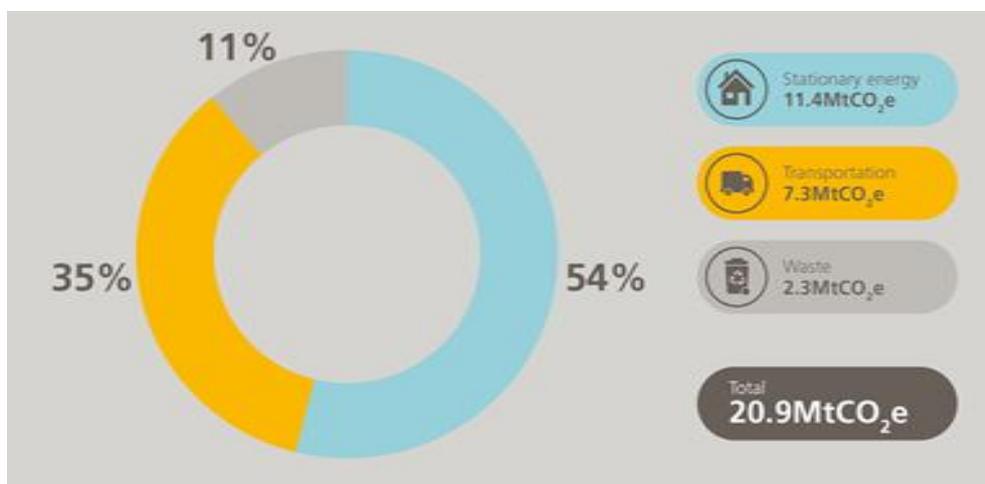


Figure 15: Summary of the results of the GPC-compliant 2016 greenhouse gas emissions inventory (2020)

Sector	MtCO <sub>2</sub> e	Percentage
Stationary energy	11.4	54%
Transportation	7.3	35%
Waste	2.3	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>100%</b>

The CoJ's 2016 Greenhouse gas emission inventory (2016 CoJ GHG Inventory, 2020), which has been afforded a Global Protocol for Community-scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC) status by C40, was finalized in the 2019/20 financial year. Together with a transition in the local energy sector, a transition in transport and spatial

planning are instrumental in achieving the carbon neutrality goal, implementing, and enabling an ambitious reduction from the business as usual (BAU) emissions trajectory of the city. In total, 20.9 million tonnes of carbon emissions equivalent (MtCO<sub>2e</sub>) were emitted in 2016. The City needs to halve (56%) its greenhouse gas emissions in order to reach the CAPs net-zero emissions target. Most of the emissions come from the stationary energy sector contributing 11.4MtCO<sub>2e</sub> (54%) largely driven by electricity consumption from manufacturing and construction, followed by the transportation sector with 7.3 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> (35%), and waste sector with 2.3MtCO<sub>2e</sub> (11%). City emission per capita and per Gross Domestic Product (GDP) were 4.2 tCO<sub>2e</sub>/capita and 442 tCO<sub>2e</sub> per million USD Gross Domestic Product (GDP) respectively.

## What the City is doing

**Inner City Walkable Networks Low Emissions Zones for a Sustainable Future:** The Pilot Walkable Networks Project was conceptualised in February 2020 by the JICP Inner-City Think-Tank made up of representatives from Absa, Anglo American, Citiq, CoJ, FNB, Gauteng province, Harambee, Ithemba, Divercity, JICP, JPOMA, South Point, Standard Bank, Transnet, TUHF and UJ – in partnership with the City.

The Inner-City Urban Regeneration Programme focuses on an area-based improvement strategy. These Inner-City area-based interventions are in support of the Johannesburg Inner-City Transportation Masterplan and the Inner-City Transformation Roadmap. The Walkable Network is a partnership-based initiative that was proposed by the JICP. The Inner-City Walkable Networks project entails detailed planning and design for improved safety, accessibility and linkages of the various Inner-City nodes and precincts.

The focus of the initiative is improved safety and walkability along streets and in other public places through various forms of placemaking, such as pedestrianisation, public art, street furniture, lighting, landscaping, signage, safety, and cleanliness interventions through partnerships with public, private, and civil society stakeholders from the property, design, security, waste management, academic, food production and other sectors.

The Inner City is characterized by a limited public environment that caters primarily for vehicular movement and transportation, with only partial infrastructure being built for pedestrians. Most roads are constructed without kerbs or sidewalks, resulting in a challenging, and at times unsafe, environment for most of its residents. There are also few parks and public spaces for recreation and play. In many instances, the design and upkeep of the public environment is also neglected without a clear strategy or design intent.

By refocusing this priority from vehicles to people, streets can be greatly improved using effective planning concepts such as complete streets, context sensitive design and traffic calming measures that highlight pedestrian safety in specific areas. This



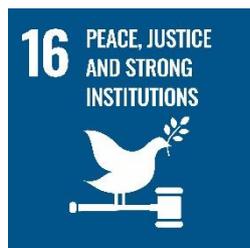
can be achieved by upgrading existing streets and sidewalks, providing street furniture and lighting, as well as signage and road markings to improve legibility as well as create communities that are more inviting and aesthetically pleasing for all users. In addition, the upgrading of the public environment can also provide better range of spaces for local communities to gather, interact and engage.

## Way forward

The CAP covers key goals that the CoJ has committed to as well as actions required to achieve those goals. The two overarching climate goals are Carbon Neutrality by 2050, and Climate Resilient City by 2050. Achieving these targets will require strong partnerships; structural, institutional, and societal change; political will; bold leadership and investment, but it is technically feasible to achieve.

In the built environment, key mitigation emissions reduction opportunities are found in energy efficiency (stricter building standards/codes) and renewables (grid decarbonisation and rooftop solar PV). Transport emissions can be reduced through a modal shift from private to public transport, the use of cleaner fuels (electric and hybrid vehicles) and higher vehicle efficiency (vehicle emissions standards) and the promoting of non-motorised transport (NMT). Emissions from waste can be reduced by diverting solid waste from landfill (through recycling and composting) and the use of wastewater biogas for energy production.

## 8.2.6 Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions



This SDG seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, transparent, and inclusive institutions at all levels. Ongoing and new violent conflicts around the world are derailing the global path to peace and achievement of Goal 16. Alarming, the year 2022 witnessed a more than 50% increase in conflict-related civilian deaths – the first since the adoption of Agenda 2030. High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, while sexual violence, crime, exploitation, and torture are prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk (United Nations, 2024).

The CoJ has developed Joburg City Safety Strategy (JCSS) 2015, which supports this view that safety is more than just a policing approach – it is a cross cutting phenomenon that requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders. These stakeholders should work collaboratively to reduce both the actual incidence of crime and the negative perceptions of crime which impact on business confidence and investment decision-making. The strategy is currently being reviewed to ensure it remains responsive and



relevant to current issues. To ensure the effective implementation of the strategy, the broader multiagency community must agree to adopt an integrated approach to achieve a caring, safe, and secure city.

**Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.**

High levels of crime and violence remain a challenge in the CoJ. This is compounded by historical geographic, social, and economic inequality. Research based on South Africa Police Service data shows that, despite a decrease in the number of official police reports filed since 2011, people still feel unsafe in Johannesburg (CoJ GSPCR, 2023) (SACN, 2022).

**Indicator 16.1.1D: Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population.**

**27** people per 100,000 population were victims of intentional homicide during 2020/21 financial year.

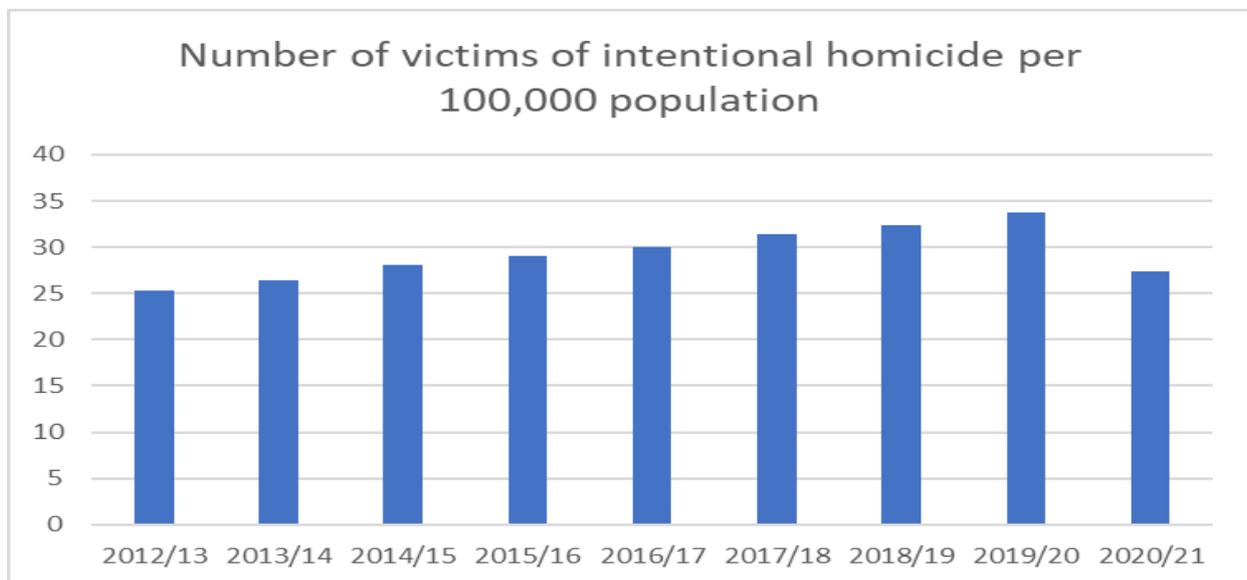


Figure 16: Number of victims of intentional homicide, City of Joburg. Source: South African Cities Network (SACN), Urban safety report 2020/21

**Progress:**

The number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population increased between 2012/13 and 2019/20 financial years from 25.32 to 33.79. However, from 2019/20 to 2020/21 there was a decline in the number of victims of intentional homicide to 27.32. This sudden dip can be attributed to the enforcement of lockdown during



Covid-19 pandemic to control the spread of the Covid-19 virus. During these times the army was deployed to patrol some areas.

**Indicator 16.1.3D: Number of victims subjected to physical violence and sexual violence per 100 000 of population.**

**229** people per 100,000 population were victims of physical violence during 2020/21 financial year.

**58** people per 100,000 population were victims of sexual violence during 2020/21 financial year.

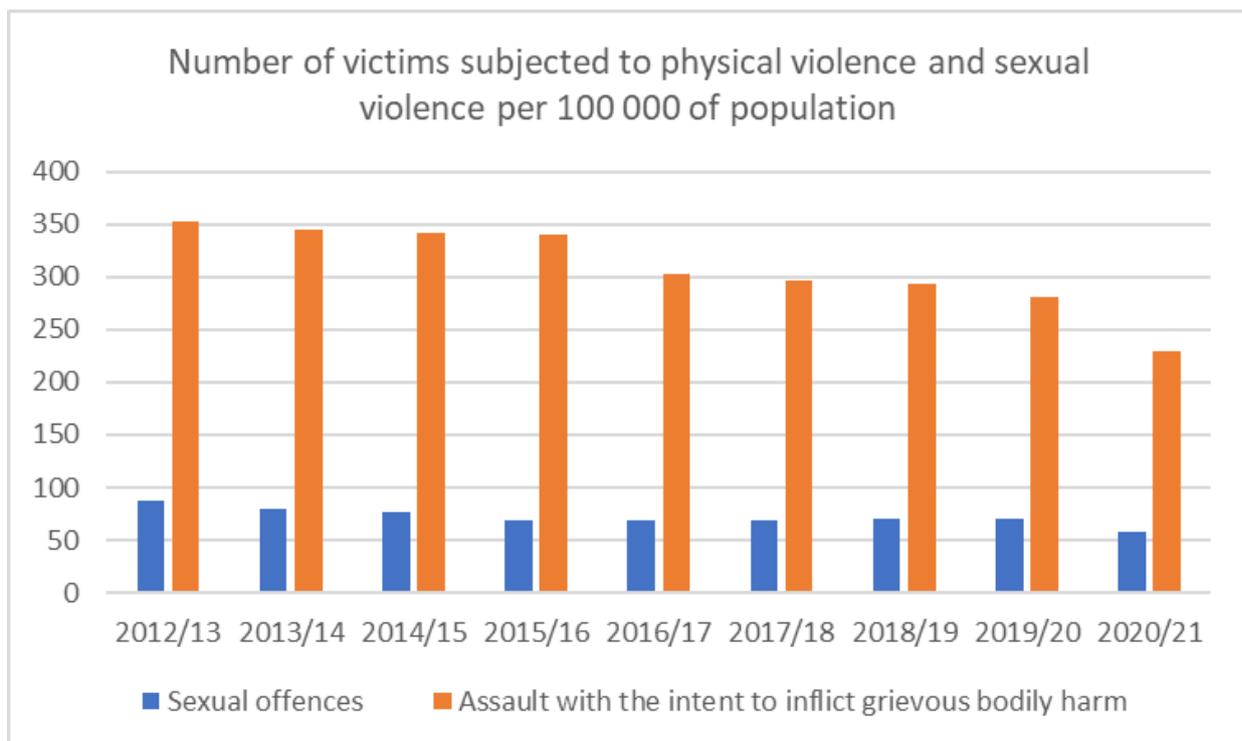


Figure 17: Number of victims subjected to physical violence and sexual violence per 100 000 of population, City of Joburg. Source: South African Cities Network (SACN), Urban safety report 2020/21

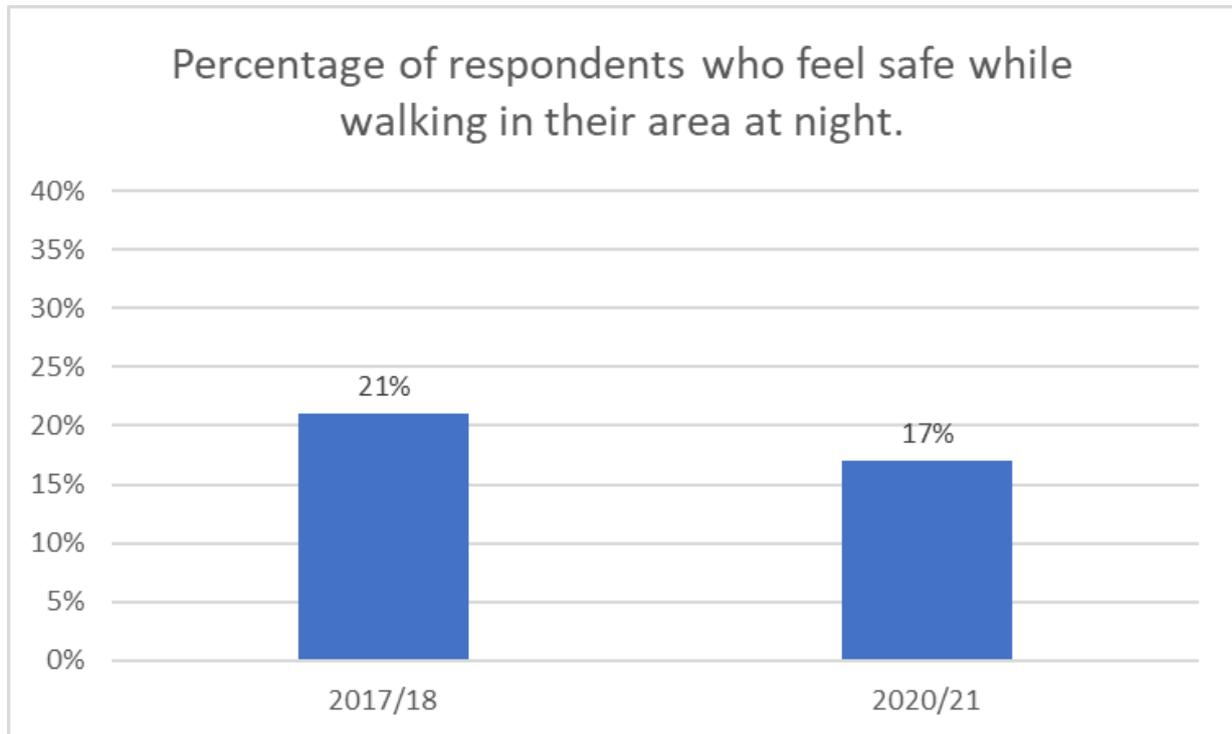
**Progress:**

The number of people who experienced sexual violence has declined between 2012/13 and 2020/21 by 34.09%. The significant decrease during 2020/21 financial year is due to the lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic that was enforced to control the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The number of assault cases with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm has declined by 34.94% between 2012/13 and 2020/21.



**Indicator 16.1.4D: Percentage of respondents who feel safe while walking in their area at night:**

**17%** of respondents feel safe walking in their area at night



*Figure 18: Percentage of respondents who feel safe while walking in their area at night, City of Joburg. Source: GCRO Quality of life report 2020/21*

**Progress:**

During the 2020/21 Quality of Life survey, 17% of respondents said they do feel safe showing a 4% decrease from 21% of respondents who felt safe during 2017/18 Quality of Life survey.

**Indicator 16.2.3: Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18:** During the 2020/21 Quality of Life survey, **1.44%** of respondents between 18-29 years said they experienced sexual violence by the age of 18.

**Indicator 16.5.1: Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months:** During the 2020/21 Quality of Life survey, **10.8%** of respondents said they paid or were asked for a bribe by public officials.



**Indicator 16.6.2D: Proportion of population satisfied with local government:**

**28%** of respondents were satisfied with local government during 2020/21

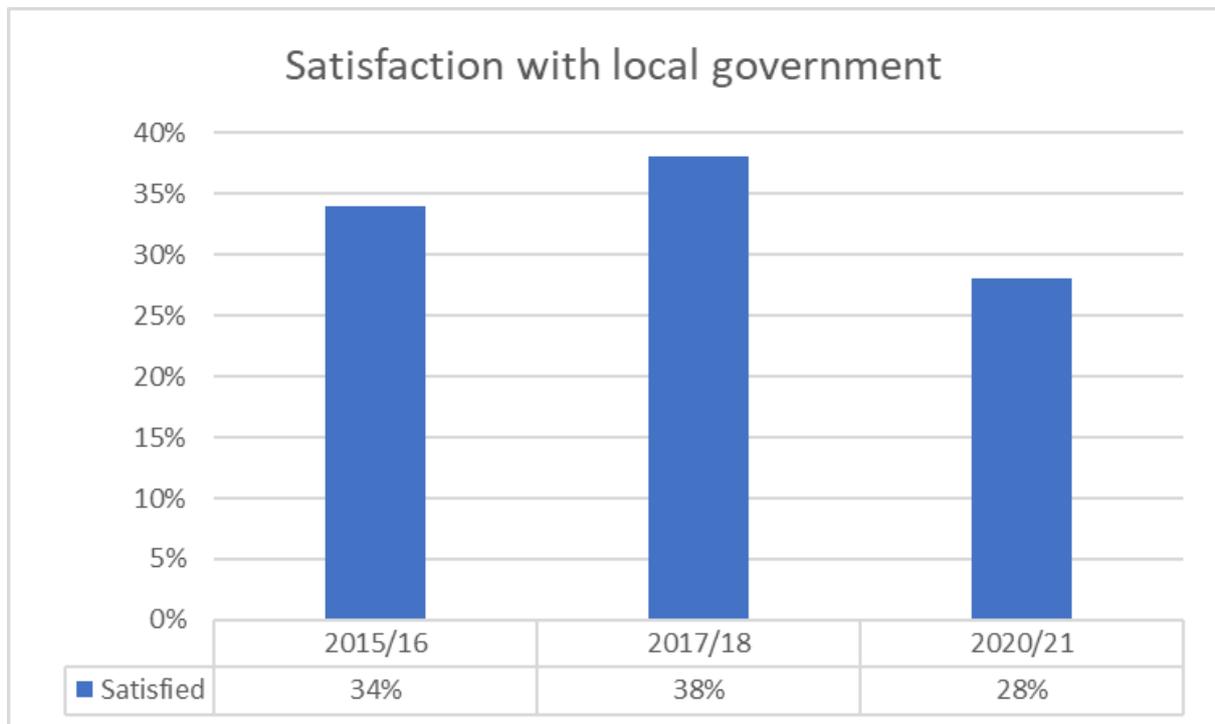


Figure 19: Satisfaction with local government, City of Joburg. Source: GCRO Quality of life report 2020/21

**Progress:**

Satisfaction with local government has declined during the last three Quality of Life surveys, from 34% during 2015/16 to 28% during 2020/21.

**What the City is doing**

**The Safer City Project:** This project is being piloted in cities across the country. In Gauteng; Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni and Tshwane are all participating in this National Programme. The Safer City concept being, to create an integrated safer city vision and to develop an approach aligned to enhancing the economic performance of a city. The approach includes a multi-stakeholder forum with representatives from different spheres of government, the private sector, and communities. It encourages collaborative partnerships between government law enforcement agencies, local businesses and CPFs. As such, the Project initiates the formulation of an action plan to streamline operations and provide situational awareness to all role-players involved with the management, security, and well-being of cities. It is focused on achieving a common vision of providing an environment in which people can feel safe and are safe through the involvement of a range of stakeholders with various skills and expertise



whilst advocating for the use of technology as a cross cutting enabler to improve evidence-based planning, action, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, to assist in addressing crime and unsafety issues.

The concept is aligned to the CoJ's Council approved Joburg City Safety Strategy (JCSS), which acknowledges that whilst safety issues are the domain of 'traditional safety' or law enforcement service providers, the responsibility for safety does not rest solely with them. Instead, safety is a complex and cross-cutting phenomenon that requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders. A smarter, safer city will make people feel safer not only because of the number of police officers and cameras on the streets but because its residents co-participated in creating an atmosphere of trust and law abidance within communities.

**Street cameras:** The Johannesburg Metro Police Department's (JMPD) commenced a partnership with Vumacam in July 2023 to use cameras to make streets, communities, and the city safer. The initiative has reported numerous successes in ridding the city's roads of criminals and unlawful vehicles, as well as in enforcing by-laws. The partnership saw the JMPD gain access to Vumacam's close to 8,000 SafeCity closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras with specialized licence plate recognition technology that are installed in key areas around the metro, such as Alexandra and Soweto, to monitor for illegal and suspicious activities (Du Toit, 2023). In the first 100 days that these cameras were fully integrated into the JMPD's Integrated Intelligence Operations Centre (IIOC), the following results were reported:

- 39 unlawful vehicles impounded;
- 58 arrests for various crimes;
- 104 vehicles intercepted and their occupants questioned and/or apprehended;
- 427 by-law violations reported; and
- 1, 342 JMPD vehicles dispatched to attend to incidences of crime.

## Community Contribution

**Safe Ride:** In Johannesburg in 2016, Sonke Gender Justice and the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) launched the Safe Ride campaign aimed at educating the taxi community about how they can help prevent and stop harassment of, and sexual violence against, women and children. The Safe Ride campaign's objective is to engage the South African taxi industry (taxi associations, drivers, owners, queue marshals) and key government departments, including CoJ, in an ongoing campaign to promote respectful and non-violent behaviour towards customers, particularly women and girls; prevent sexual and gender-based violence and harassment; and promote gender equality and safety so that women and children using public transport feel safe and arrive at their destinations safely.

## Way forward

Building resilient communities requires social support in the form of social crime prevention programmes. This too requires an integrated approach which includes the City's Human and Social Development cluster working in tandem with the Department of Economic Development and Development Planning. In Joburg, community engagement, collaboration and partnerships are critical in the broader context of community safety. Thus, it is important that municipal policing supports the local community and neighbourhood policing initiatives through data and partnerships. Moreover, it is critical that platforms are provided for residents' voices to be heard when dealing with community safety and crime prevention issues.

The CoJ can enhance the urban environment through crime preventative environmental design. This should include installing appropriate streetlights with security cameras that are monitored and maintained regularly especially in areas where there is a high prevalence of crime. Currently, the City's IIOC hosts the JMPD's extensive network of CCTV cameras to monitor crime in and around the Inner City. In future, the IIOC will not only be used for crime detection and prevention but to monitor and analyse traffic flow and congestion, maintain active control over the maintenance of municipal services and improve emergency response times and overall service delivery.

### 8.2.7 Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals



Currently, most people live in cities and cities are the primary responders to global issues. And, more than ever before, cities are connected to a global web of other cities.

**86%** of households in Gauteng are using the internet

Local governments are actively joining hands to work together to address challenges through international associations and global networks. The CoJ is a member of multiple global networks advancing the SDG including, U20, the United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) network, the Metropolis network, C40, ICLEI and FMDV. Through its membership, the City of Joburg's objective is to focus on key strategic priorities and investing in city economic growth. These kinds of networks are important for exchanging knowledge and forming city partnerships to mitigate the impacts of climate change, Covid-19, and social issues; including enabling cities to learn from each other and work together locally and collaboratively to advance global goals like the SDGs and New Urban Agenda. Localising both financing and decision-making at the city level are now considered key to building resilient territories and are critical for global recovery and enhanced resilience (Gunnarsson, 2020).

## Member of C40, FMDV, ICLEI, Metropolis, UCLG and U20

<p>1</p>  <p><b>C40 Cities</b> Climate Leadership Group</p> <p><b>CoJ involvement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steering Committee (2011)</li> <li>Board member</li> <li>C40 Land Use Planning Workshop (2016)</li> <li>5th C40 Biennial Mayoral Summit (2014)</li> <li>Regional training workshops on GHG measurement and reporting</li> <li>C40 Steering Committee</li> </ul>	<p>2</p>  <p><b>Fonds Mondial Pour le Développement Villes Global</b></p> <p><b>CoJ involvement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vice-president (2014 - 2016)</li> <li>Board member (2019 – 2021)</li> </ul>	<p>3</p>  <p><b>ICLEI</b> Local Governments for Sustainability</p> <p><b>CoJ involvement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICLEI Africa Committee (2014)</li> </ul>	<p>4</p>  <p><b>Metropolis</b></p> <p><b>CoJ involvement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-President (2014 - 2016)</li> <li>Board of Directors (2019)</li> <li>Regional Secretary (2014 - 2016)</li> <li>Host of the Metropolis Annual Meeting (2013)</li> </ul>
<p>5</p>  <p><b>United Cities and Local Governments</b></p> <p><b>CoJ involvement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-Chair of the UCLG Policy Council on Territorial, Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing (2020)</li> <li>President (2016 - 2019)</li> <li>Metropolis Representative of UCLG World Council (2014 - 2016)</li> </ul>	<p>6</p>  <p><b>United Cities and Local Governments of Africa</b></p> <p><b>CoJ involvement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host of the 7th Edition of the Africities Summit (2015)</li> <li>Board of UCLG Africa TechNet (2017)</li> </ul>	<p>7</p>  <p><b>Urban 20</b></p> <p><b>CoJ involvement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in U20 Sherpa Meeting</li> </ul>	

Figure 20: Partnership for the goals and membership in global networks

Johannesburg is not an island and must make its strategic decisions considering other metros, the province, the country, the region, Africa, and beyond. Creating a seamless region for residents is a priority. Collaborating with the private sector and communities through developmental public-private partnerships (PPPs) and community engagements is crucial. Meeting challenges and seizing opportunities demands effective systems, agile governance, collaborative decision-making, and innovation on shared mega-projects.

### What the City is doing

**Public Private Partnerships (PPP) – Traffic Signal Backup Power Initiative:** Vodacom and the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) have entered into a partnership that will ensure traffic signals along major intersections in Midrand, Gauteng remain operational during load-shedding. This joining of hands with Vodacom as well as the 39 other Service Level Agreements that are in progress, is a positive boost to growing our local economy as less time in congested traffic means more productive time at the office, the factory, and the school. This partnership will assist in easing load-shedding-induced traffic congestion at these intersections and provide relief for between 2,000 and 3,000 vehicles traveling in both directions during morning and afternoon peak hours, according to the JRA. Additionally, non-functioning traffic lights can cause a rise in criminal activity, as well as an increase in accidents. Through this partnership, we hope to drive efficiency on our roads and ensure the safety of our community.

**International partnership: The United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment facility (UNEP/GEF) Organic farming project:** Six (6) organic farming projects with a minimum of one (1) hectare portion of land were established through international funding from the UNEP. The focus of the partnership is to establish and support organic farmers within the city with the main objective to reduce carbon emission as part of the broader climate change programme. Infrastructure development and production inputs worth more than R4 million were invested to ensure seamless implementation of the programme.

**Multi-level partnership: Net-Zero Carbon (NZC) buildings:** As a result of funding from South Africa UK PACT, the CoJ is working with Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA) and C40 to develop the NZC buildings project. This work currently includes developing a NZC policy implementation/tracking database. Next, the CoJ will update the Green Building checklist and Standard Operation Procure(s) accordingly. We will also have a follow-up South African National Standards (SANS) and NZC buildings training workshop. This will ensure that even more officials are capacitated on the NZC requirements when undertaking building assessments and quality assurance. And finally, the City aims to develop a green helpdesk in the CoJ to support developers on NZC compliance through being able to consult with officials and receive useful building regulation checklists to guide future developments.

## Way forward

The CoJ needs to create a conducive policy environment for partnerships and work closely with different levels of government, neighbouring municipalities, communities, and businesses to plan, budget, and implement together. The CoJ aims to be an active member of international networks and contribute to global agendas.

## 9 LIMITATIONS

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This being a baseline VLR report, the COJ acknowledges that we encountered some constraints.

Firstly, there were constraints in terms of being able to report against all indicators associated with the selected SDG. As such the progress assessment reported for the selected SDGs is based on the data that was available at an indicator level, rather than it being comprehensive and inclusive of all relevant indicators.

Secondly and linked to the above, a key limitation of the current CoJ VLR reporting is that official data, disaggregated to the municipal level, is not currently available for many SDG indicators. The CoJ aspires to strengthen data accuracy for SDG reporting.

Finally, it is noted that there is a lack of alignment between city-level and national-level SDG reporting within South Africa.

## 10 RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 10.1. Improve vertical and horizontal alignment

Improving vertical and horizontal alignment between local and national reporting is crucial for ensuring data consistency and effective monitoring of the SDGs.

#### 10.1.1. Establish a guiding Framework for VLR Reporting

To improve the integration of data and ensure consistency in reporting, it is recommended that a guiding framework for VLR reporting for South African cities is established.

10.1.1.1. This framework should recommend indicators to be reported on and promote some standardization in reporting practices across cities.

It is recommended that national departments such as, Stats SA; Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME); National Treasury; Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) work with local governments to establish such a framework. It should:

10.1.1.2. Align SDG reporting to existing municipal reporting requirements such as Circular 88 or propose amended indicators to municipalities, thereby better institutionalising SDG tracking within local governments.

10.1.1.3. Consider, and if necessary, propose new quarterly and annual reporting timelines from municipalities to national government to better align our financial years and ensure there are no timing issues in terms of VLRS feeding into the Voluntary National Review (VNR).

### 10.2. Data Provision and support at the municipal level

Data availability for some indicators is a challenge. It is recommended that the CoJ, and other metros, establish a collaboration with Stats SA to ensure the availability of municipal level data. In the case of other indicators, partnerships can be established with local tertiary institutions to conduct research on specific indicators. This will help enhance data collection and analysis efforts, providing more accurate and comprehensive SDG reporting for the CoJ.

### 10.3. Peer-to-peer learning

Collaboration between cities can greatly reduce the workload of data collection and processing, particularly because there is no standardised way of reporting VLR. Therefore, it would be efficient to share lessons around VLR reporting and the institutionalisation of SDG within existing metro systems. It is therefore recommended that the CoJ continues to engage with other metros, SALGA, and international partners like UCLG, to share lessons on their experiences and processes for local SDG reporting.

## **10.4. Create a conducive policy environment for partnerships**

Improving partnerships requires creating a conducive policy environment that encourages collaboration and knowledge sharing. The CoJ should work towards establishing policies that support sustainable development partnerships with international partners, other spheres of government, business, communities, NGOs, civil society, and academia to enhance the city's ability to achieve its SDG targets.

## **10.5. Formal recognition of SDGs projects contributing to the IDP**

The IDP should formally recognize projects that contribute to the SDGs, including those run by the public, to promote the longevity of these projects. This recognition can help prioritize sustainable development initiatives and ensure their continued support and implementation.

## **10.6. Create more public awareness around the SDGs**

10.6.1. It is recommended that the CoJ explicitly integrates SDG messaging into public campaigns, events, and educational programs including the IDP public participation sessions in order to raise more awareness and serve as call to action for communities to participate.

10.6.2. It is recommended that the CoJ continues to improve and actively update our publicly accessible sub-national SDG reporting system. This should function as transparent tool, promoting accountability and awareness of the SDGs.

## **10.7. Share the VLR report globally**

To enhance transparency and accountability, the CoJ should share its VLR report globally, for example with the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). This will not only showcase the city's efforts towards sustainable development but also provide a platform for learning and sharing best practices with other cities worldwide.

## **10.8. Develop another VLR in three years (2027)**

The CoJ should develop another VLR in three years (2027) to track progress towards implementation of the SDGs. This will provide an opportunity to assess the impact of current initiatives, identify areas for improvement, and demonstrate the city's commitment to sustainable development.

In conclusion, implementing these recommendations will not only improve the City of Johannesburg's SDG reporting but also contribute to overall sustainable development efforts. By aligning with national reporting, having a standardized reporting framework, recognizing SDG projects, developing VLRs, fostering partnerships, and sharing its progress globally, the CoJ can enhance its effectiveness, transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, and impact on sustainable development.



## 11 CONCLUSIONS

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To achieve SDGs 11, the City of Johannesburg will have to take advantage of interlinkages between Goals and targets and mitigate trade-offs that exist. The City of Johannesburg is experiencing challenges of a high unemployment rate which has direct impact on poverty and access to food. A high crime rate remains a challenge and threat to achieving a sustainable city and communities. Access to basic services has improved within the City of Johannesburg and this progress should be maintained as the population increases. The City of Johannesburg will use this VLR report as a baseline and build on it by continuing to track progress and report on the implementation of SDGs.

The Quality of Life survey will be used as a community engagement and data gathering tool to enable the City of Johannesburg to develop projects and programmes that are meaningful and impactful in communities.

Achieving SDGs does not rest upon the City of Johannesburg only but also the private sector, CSOs and communities. Therefore, collaboration will be important in making progress towards achieving SDGs. Partnership and funding of SDGs projects will accelerate localization of SDGs, keeping in mind that there are only less than seven years remaining before 2030.

The CoJ's SDGs progress as contained in this VLR is summarised below. More details can be found on the next page, Progress table as per SDGs indicators.

	<p><b>Significant challenge</b></p>	<p><b>Improving</b></p>
	<p><b>Challenge remains</b></p>	<p><b>Improving</b></p>
	<p><b>Major challenge</b></p>	<p><b>Worsening</b></p>
	<p><b>Challenge remains</b></p>	<p><b>Improving</b></p>
	<p><b>Challenge remains</b></p>	<p><b>Improving</b></p>
	<p><b>Major challenge</b></p>	<p><b>Baseline established</b></p>
	<p><b>Major challenge</b></p>	<p><b>Worsening</b></p>
	<p><b>Significant challenge</b></p>	<p><b>No data</b></p>

Figure 21: Summary overview of CoJ's SDGs progress



## 12 PROGRESS TABLE AS PER SDGs INDICATORS

### Status Key

If target is 100% met = SDG achieved

If target is +90% met = Challenge remains

If target is +80% met = Significant challenge remains

If target is <80 met = Major remains

Indicator	Actual	Status	Trend
11.1.1: Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing.	19%	Significant challenge	Improving
11.2.1: Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport.	96%	Challenge remains	-
11.6.1D: Proportion of municipal solid waste diverted from landfill out of total municipal waste collected.	26%	Major challenge	Improving
1.4.1: Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services.	93%	Challenge remains	Improving
2.1.1: Prevalence of undernourishment	25%	Major challenge	Worsening
6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	95%	Challenge remains	Improving
6.2.1: Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services	93%	Challenge remains	Improving
7.1.1: Proportion of population with access to electricity	94%	Major challenge	Improving
13.1.2: Disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework	100%	Achieved	-
13.2.2: Total greenhouse gas emissions per year (% towards achieving 2050 target)	44%	Major challenge	-
16.1.1: Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	27.32%	Major challenge	Worsening
16.1.4: Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark:	23%	Major challenge	Worsening
16.6.2D: Proportion of population satisfied with local government	28%	Major challenge	Worsening

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