

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SOLICITED WRC PROJECT

THEME	Water Advisory
TITLE	Strengthening the capacity of Water and Sanitation Community Forums
ToR NUMBER	1010090

Rationale:

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has established Water and Sanitation Community Forums together with local government (district and local municipalities), relevant sector departments and water entities across the country. The forums are designed to enable integration in intergovernmental relations for water service delivery, while acknowledging the mandates of different spheres of government. Specifically, the forums are intended to:

1. enable direct government interaction with different communities on water and sanitation issues that affect them;
2. reduce the increasing number of service delivery protests that often stem from a lack of communication and accountability;
3. promote a two way flow of information about provision of reliable water and sanitation services to the communities in terms of envisaged plans, challenges and progress;
4. create an enabling environment for empowered community participation in water and sanitation governance and;
5. encourage the active participation of community members in water and sanitation matters.

Currently, 66 Water and Sanitation Community Forums operate across all provinces, except Mpumalanga (Appendix A). Forum structure and representation vary depending on the level and nature of each particular forum. The forums are not linked to a specific project but address ongoing water and sanitation issues across various villages, areas and wards. Forum membership carries no financial benefits, and representatives participate voluntarily. Matters discussed by the forums include planned projects, progress on current projects, vandalism of water infrastructure, illegal connections, water shortages, water conservation and awareness programmes and campaigns required by different communities.

For the forums to fulfil their purpose, research is needed on the skills and competencies individual members should possess, followed by the implementation of a structured programme of training and capacity building. These should both capacitate the forums to function effectively and sustainably, and enhance their members' ability to leverage the acquired skills and competencies to improve their individual livelihoods. Exposure to water and sanitation policy and business

processes helps empower forum members to understand their role, conduct meetings efficiently, and understand the strategic direction of government and the sector, for the benefit of the communities they represent. To encourage active participation by community members in water and sanitation matters, especially in working closely with municipalities, an investigation is also needed into capabilities in basic project management, monitoring and evaluation, and communication and collaboration throughout the project life cycle.

The Water Research Commission (WRC) is working with DWS to support the implementation of the scope of work outlined in these terms of reference. The WRC seeks to appoint a team to undertake the necessary research, implementation and evaluation of components including a detailed situation analysis to identify the training needs of Water and Sanitation Community Forums; develop training manuals in line with those needs; conduct piloting and refinement of the training manual with forums from the eight provinces; implement the training schedule across the forums; and evaluate the impact of the training. This work is expected to be undertaken in close collaboration with the DWS national and regional project coordinators, local governments and the current WRC project on strengthening the role of forums in improving water services performance (refer to project aims in Appendix B).

Objectives:

General:

Build the capacity of Water and Sanitation Community Forums across the eight provinces to ensure they function effectively, sustainably and independently in support of water and sanitation service delivery.

Specific:

1. Conduct a detailed situation analysis to identify the training needs of all Water and Sanitation Community Forums in the eight provinces
2. Prepare materials required for implementing the training curriculum
3. Pilot test and refine the curriculum and training materials prior to full implementation;
4. Implement the training according to the annual schedules developed
5. Evaluate the impact of the training and revise the curriculum and training materials accordingly.
6. Issue certificates of compliance to forum members who meet the standards set for the capacity building sessions
7. Develop training content and delivery that support the continuity and sustainability of forum activities, and that can facilitate possible future expansion of the programme
8. Provide a close-out report containing photographs, attendance registers, completed pre-training assessment material and minutes of training sessions, together with a project plan detailing tasks and timelines per deliverable

Deliverables:

The following deliverables are indicative and may be tailored to suit the proposed approach:

1. Inception report
2. Situation analysis report, including a capacity building needs assessment, training curriculum and schedule, and demographic and social profile for each forum

3. Training materials (existing or newly developed)
4. Pilot testing report, updated curriculum and materials
5. Completed training courses and participant certificates of competence
6. Annual training progress reports
7. Final report, including training impact evaluation, and revised curriculum and training materials
8. Digital repository of associated materials, including photographs, attendance registers, completed pre-training assessment material and minutes of training sessions.

Notes:

1. The inception and situation analysis deliverables must include at least the following:
 - a. Explanation of how the training content will ensure continuity and sustainability of the forums' activities and how this enables possible future expansion efforts.
 - b. Detailed plans of how the training will be presented at the different forums throughout the country.
 - c. Description of the principles and method of assessment processes.
 - d. Explanation of how the will facilitate learning at the established level of education of the various forums.
 - e. Explanation of how training programme design, including material and training methodology, will be adaptable to conform to differences in educational levels and other relevant variables within and between forums.
 - f. Discuss the types of supportive materials/sources that will be provided for preparation and training, including a distinction between existing training materials that can be used with little or no modification and training materials that need to be newly developed
 - g. Explanation of how instructors will be prepared for the process.
 - h. Explanation of the post-training assessment and impact evaluation process
 - i. Reporting process between instructors, WRC and DWS throughout the project.
2. Proposals must be submitted online via the WRC [Business Management System](#) (BMS). A user guide to BMS is available [here](#). For technical queries regarding BMS, contact bms-support@wrc.org.za. **Closing date for submission of proposals is 15:00 on 16 November 2026.**
3. Project team composition must reflect the full range of experience and skills necessary to undertake this assignment. Proposals must include the details of all team members, their experience and expertise relevant to this assignment and their role in the project.
4. Contact person for enquiries on these terms of reference: John Dini (johnd@wrc.org.za)

Time Frame:

Three-year contract period from the date of appointment.

Planned project start date: 1 February 2027

Total Funds Available:

R2 730 000 including VAT

APPENDIX A: LIST OF FORUMS

Province	District	Local Municipality	Name of the forum	Average number of forum members*	Date established	Chairperson, Deputy and secretariat	Capacity Building of forums on Water & Sanitation Business and other relevant Skills
North West	Bojanala	Madibeng	Jericho forum	17	May-15	Chairperson: Mr Sam Ntobong : 083 439 5675	W&S business & fixing of taps/leaks by Lixil/Cobra)
	Bojanala	Madibeng	Klipgat forum	22	Jun-15	Chairperson: Mr Piet Maluleke: 071 303 4732	W&S business &fixing of taps/leaks by Lixil/Cobra))
	Ngaka	Ratlou	Cluster 3: Setlagole forum	18	15-Oct	Chairperson:Gaobakwe James Gaegane-076 179 1709	
	Ngaka	Ratlou	Masamane	19	Jun-22		W&S Business and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	Ngaka	Mahikeng	Mantsa	24	Jul-22		W&S Business and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	Ngaka	Ratlou	Kraaipan	19	Jul-22	Chaiperson: Lopang Morolong 073 104 1082 Deputy: 071 710 3312 Secretary: 082 433 7509	W&S Business and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	Ngaka	Ratlou	Makgobistadt	20	Aug-22	Chairperson: Kattholo Setlhako 076 811 0478 Deputy chair:Peter Sekonyela:071 664 9577 secretariat:Elsie Seshanke 074 716 1677	W&S Business and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	Ngaka	Ratlou	Mareetsane forum	16	Oct-22	Chairperson :Lee Sedupane-063 468 2629	W&S Business and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	Ngaka	Ratlou	Motsitlane	23	Aug-22	Chairperson: Sebitso David 072 368 9360	W&S Business and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	Dr Ruth Mompoti	Kagisano Molopo	Ganyesa	20	Mar-22	Chairperson; Modisakgotla Letlhogile Deputy chair: Kgalalelo Gabe	
	Dr Ruth Mompoti	Kagisano Molopo	Morokweng	18	22-Mar		
Western Cape	Garden Route DM	George LM	Thembaletu forum	25	26-Aug-15	Chairperson: Mr Ncedisa Gwilikana 063 545 6717	W&S Business, Fixing of Cistern & Taps and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	Garden Route DM	Kannaland LM	Kannaland forum	20	21-Oct-15	Chairperson: Mr Daniel Joom 071 855 8886, Deputy Chairperson: Mr Lohan Fourie 072 214 5503	W&S Business, Fixing of Cistern & Taps and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	Garden Route DM	Oudtshoon LM	Oudtshoon forum	22	22-Oct-15	Chairperson: Mr Raul Du Toit 073 699 8665 / 064 399 3643	W&S Business, Fixing of Cistern & Taps and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	Garden Route DM	Plettenberg Bay LM	Bitou forum	19	06-Sept-16	Chairperson: Ms Nokuzola Kolwaphi 076 788 9599, Deputy Chairperson: Mr Simon Jacobs 076 092 5272	W&S Business, Fixing of Cistern & Taps and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	Central Karoo DM	Prince Albert	Prince Albert Forum	23	16-Jul-15	Chairperson: Mr Jan Loff 083 413 6010, Deputy Chairperson: Mr Raymond Swartz 065 021 7169	W&S Business, Fixing of Cistern & Taps and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	West Coast DM	Cederberg LM	Cederberg forum	28	21-Sept-16		W&S Business, Fixing of Cistern & Taps and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
	West Coast DM	Matzikam LM	Matzikama forum	19	26-Sept-16	Chairperson: Ms Collen Arnolds 027 050 9325 / 063 854 4557	W&S Business, Fixing of Cistern & Taps and Project Management of Community Based income generating projects
Gauteng	Ekurhuleni Metro	Etswatwa area	Etswatwa forum	25	19-Jul-16	Chairperson: Mmabatho Ntlakana:	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	Sedibeng DM	Emfuleni LM	Bophelong forum	22	10-Aug-17	Mr Kocha Lepae Elias 073 098 5485	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	Tshwane Metro	Tshwane	Sokhulumini forum	19	07-Dec-16	Chairperson: Mr Mlambo Buti Jacob, Cell: 0793534457, ID 6704195315 Deputy Chairperson: Ms Phora Fillistars Pinky, Cell no. 08324689543, ID No.8708041178088 Secretary:Mr Mashego Mlungisi George, Cell no.0721726020, ID No. 9508085551086 Deputy Secretary: Ms Nakedi Lerato Gloria, Cell no. 0765038934, ID No. 8704160759085	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	Tshwane Metro	Tshwane	Majaneng forum	26	14-Dec-16	Chairperson: Mr Abel Nthapalala, Cell no. 0717374386, ID No. 8801295788080 Deputy Chairperson: Ms Maria Sithole, Cell no: 0790368083, ID No.8910090797087 Secretary: Ms Lorato Ditlopo, Cell no. 0726110633, ID No. 7609290800086 Deputy Secretary: Mr Moses Phalatse, Cell no. 0762946609, ID No. 7606046393085	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	City of Johannesburg	City of Johannesburg	Orange Farm forum	28	19-Oct-17	Chairperson: Selby 079 696 0040	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	City of Johannesburg	City of Johannesburg	Greater Diepsloot forum	18	21-Aug-18	Chair : Sithole Sylvia 0724174933 :Secretary Manyisi 0728487272	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	City of Johannesburg	City of Johannesburg	Alexandra Forum	20	01-Sept-21	Chairperson: Thabo Mopasi 065 951 2020 Secretary: 076 141 6760	No capacity it's a new forum
KwaZulu-Natal	Mkhanyakude DM	Jozini LM	Jozini forum	16	11-Sept-15	Chairperson: Mr. Slovo: 072 884 5158 secretariat: Nombuso Mngomezulu	Water and Sanitation Business
	Mkhanyakude DM	Mtubatuba LM	Mtubatuba forum	20	30-Oct-15	Chairperson: Garnet Lancelot Bond: 072 0261515	Water and Sanitation Business
	uThukela DM	Langalibalele LM	Inkosi Langalibalele forum	18	15-Dec-16	Chairperson: Zwelisha Mncube 064 928 4744: Deputy Chair Priscilla Dumakude: 072 335 2145: secretary: Thembelihle Ximba 071 000 8849	Water and Sanitation Business

	Ugu DM	Muziwabantu LM	Muziwabantu forum	22	13-Jun-16	Acting Chair: Noluntu Nzimande 073 913 9730 Secretary Nonhlanhla Nciki: 0785041103	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	Ugu DM	Ray Nkonyeni LM	Nzimakwe Forum	19	21-Dec-16	Chairperson: Mr. Mpisane 0834816443	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	Zululand DM	Abaqulusi LM	Abaqulusi forum	17	09-Oct-15	Chairperson: P M Mtshali :0763916213/ 0836192074	Water and Sanitation Business
	Zululand DM	Nongoma LM	Nongoma forum	15	10-Sept-15	Chairperson: Councilor Gumbi: 072 710 6546 secretariat: Mr. Mbokazi. Representative: Bhekinkosi Khumalo: 072 188 5249	Water and Sanitation Business
	Amajuba DM	Danhausser Local	Amajuba water inspectors	21	01-Feb-16	Chairperson: Mr Simiso Jiyane 0742722121	Water and Sanitation Business
	Amajuba DM	eMadlangeni LM	eMadlangeni forum	20	21-Sept-16	Chairperson:Thamsanqa Mkhabela: 079 7043 076	Water and Sanitation Business
	uMzinyathi DM	Mvoti	Muden forum	18	23-Mar-21	Chairperson : Mr Murrias 082 374 2310 or 082 374 2310	Water and Sanitation Business
	uMgungudlovu	Mpofana	Greytown forum	17	01-Dec-18	Chairperson - Deceased Forum member - Mr. Zungu 0723840075	Water and Sanitation Business
Northern Cape	John Taolo Gaetsewe	Gamagara LM	Olifantshoek forum	20	Mar-16	Chairperson: Mr Majuba Selao: 0761760102; Secretariate: McDonald Serache: 0769478698, Email: serachemcdonald4@gmail.com Deputy Chairperson: Me Jennifer Kadimo Mokomele: 0769345832	W&S Business, fixing of taps/leaks by Lixil/Cobra and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	John Taolo Gaetsewe	Joe Morolong	Joe Morolong forum	18	26-Apr-17	To be nominated in line with the developments of Vaal Gamagara Bulk Water Supply Project	W&S Business, fixing of taps/leaks by Lixil/Cobra and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	Namakwa DM	Hantam	Loerriesfontein forum	19	23-May-16	Chairperson: Mr B Farmer 0836277307 Deputy Chairperson: Mr JJ Opperman : 0715010022) Secretary : Mrs/Cllr G Opperman 0793252224	W&S Business, fixing of taps/leaks by Lixil/Cobra and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	Pixley ka Seme DM	Siyancuma LM	Douglas forum	25	26-Apr-16	Deputy Chairperson: Mr Isak Paulus 074 926 5350 Isakpaulus3w@gmail.com Secretary: Mr Richard Maketlo, (Email: rmaketlo452@gmail.com Cell: 0843385339).	W&S Business, fixing of taps/leaks by Lixil/Cobra and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
	Pixley Ka Seme DM	Ubuntu LM	Ubuntu forum/Victoria West	22	09-Sept-16	Chairperson: Mr SL Jafta; 0710570482; Email: siyabulelajafta517@gmail.com Deputy : Me Caroline Edwards; 0810581687	W&S Business, fixing of taps/leaks by Lixil/Cobra and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Projects
Free State	Thabo Mofutsanyane	Mantsopa Lm	Ladybrand Forum	18			
	Thabo Mofutsanyane	Setsoto LM	Ficksburg Forum	17			
	Thabo Mofutsanyane	Phumelela LM	Vrede Forum	19			
	Thabo Mofutsanyane	Mantsopa Lm	Tweespruit forum	20		Chairperson: Mohapi Khabanyane Cell: 0818342748	
	Lejweleputswa	Masilonyana LM	Verkeerdvlei forum	15		Chairperson: Mr Lepota Cell: 0735932216	
	Xhariep DM	Letsemeng LM	Jacobsdal forum	22	13-Nov-15		Project Management of Community Based income generating projects and Water and Sanitation Business
	Xhariep DM	Letsemeng LM	Petrusburg forum	17	05-Nov-15	Chairperson: Mr September Pule Enerst: 0735303960	Project Management of Community Based income generating projects and Water and Sanitation Business
Limpopo	Vhembe DM	Musina LM	Musina forum	30	15-Mar-17	Chairperson: Charperson passed away.	Water and Sanitation Business
	Vhembe DM	Thulamela LM	Thulamela forum	35	15-Mar-17	Chairperson: Mankili N: 072 754 4307 and 065 803 4603	Water and Sanitation Business
	Vhembe DM	Collins Shabani LM	Collins Shabani forum	38	17-May-17	Chairperson: Suwela M.T : 078 841 8798	Water and Sanitation Business
	Mopani DM	Mopani DM	Mopani District forum	40	22-Sept-17	Chairperson: MMC Cllr Sefufi 082 589 8120	W&S Business & Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Project
	Mopani DM	Greater Letaba LM	Greater Letaba forum	46	20-Oct-15	Chairperson: Morwatshehla Francinah: 0731786541	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Project
	Mopani DM	Greater Tzaneen LM	Greater Tzaneen forum	42	20-Apr-16	Chairperson: Councillor RR Selomo- 0785263674 Deputy Chairperson: Councillor Machete - 0768068553 Secretary: Tsietsi Manyama -0763632917	W&S Business, Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Project
	Mopani DM	Ba-Phalaborwa LM	Ba-Phalaborwa forum	52	04-Feb-16	Chairperson: Mr Jakkie Malobela 0760278878, Deputy- chairperson: Mr Griffith Mathebula 0731307193, Secretary: Simon Mudzanani 0736397660, Deputy-Secretary: Ms MatshidisoKhosa 0842570817	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Project
	Mopani DM	Maruleng LM	Maruleng forum	37	20-Jun-16	Chairperson: Davi Sekgobela 082 444 3121, Deputy Chairperson: Wilson Nyathi 076 753 6247, Secretary: Chito Gwaze 072 071 3642, Deputy Secretary: Mangedi Kgohloane 079 674 8407	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Project
	Mopani DM	Greater Giyani LM	Greater Giyani LM	45	23-Mar-16	Chairperson- Councillor Martha Maswanganyi-0837416117, Deputy Chairperson -Mr M.A Matukane - 0828075643, Secretary- Mr E Baloyi- 0636846528, Deputy Secretary-Mr Thabo Ramoshaba-0780979949	W&S Business and Community Based Fundraising, Partnerships and Sustainable Community Based Project
	Sekhukhune DM	Elias Motsoaledi LM	Elias Motsoaledi forum	48	12-Nov-15	Mahlase Kenneth Chairperson 0825256299, Mahlangu Paul Deputy Chairperson 0763738643, Mgoma Jonathan Secretary 0716134143, MalapelaFrans Deputy secretary 0837931126	Water and Sanitation Business
	Sekhukhune DM	Makhuduthamaga	Makhuduthamaga	38	20-Nov-15	Cllr. MaenaMaikula Chairperson 0824303939, Kgoshi Mailasegolo Deputy chairperson 0737561231, Ndebele Emily Secretary 0828573167, KgatukeLebidiike Deputy secretary 0766960600	Water and Sanitation Business

Sekhukhune DM	Ephraim Mogale LM	Ephraim Mogale forum	40	10-Nov-15	Chairperson: Thabiso Mabaso 073 6006 99, Deputy Chairperson: Shalang Mashilo-0829259856, Secretary: Mokopa Motsepe 079 235 1235, Deputy secretary: Bogopa Vivian-0791766928	Water and Sanitation Business
Sekhukhune DM	Fetakgomo LM	Fetakgomo/Tubatse forum	37	03-Dec-15	Cllr. Diphofa Chairperson 0727791646, Regina Malerotho. Deputy 0715210516, Lerato Peu Secretary 0828648996, Release Radingoana Deputy secretary 0827531597	Water and Sanitation Business
Sekhukhune DM	Greater Tubatse LM	Greater Tubatse forum	48	24-Mar-16	Mashiane K.P. Chairperson 0727756537, Maroga T. Deputy Chairperson 0820983214, Makofane Sydney Secretary 0796070088, Masha H.S. Deputy secretary 0723014004	Water and Sanitation Business
Capricorn DM	Polokwane LM	Polokwane forum	46	18-Mar-16	MMC Maleka (Chairperson: Water and Sanitation) Deputy Chairperson: Cllr Mashiane A Secretary: Mr Sehlakgoe GK (DWS)	Water and Sanitation Business
Capricorn DM	Molemole LM	Molemole forum	38	26-Jan-17	MMC Lehong (Chairperson) Cell: 082 4715 723, Deputy: Rapata V, Secretary:Mokhuthane Mamma Cell: 082 9600 246	Water and Sanitation Business
Capricorn DM	Lepelle-Nkumpi LM	Lepelle-Nkumpi LM	41	27-Jan-17	MMC Mphofela S (Chairperson) Cell: 079 293 5159, Ms Maja M (Secretary) Cell: 082 266 7536	Water and Sanitation Business
Capricorn DM	Blouberg LM	Blouberg forum	46	02-Feb-17	MMC Mashalane(Chairperson) Cell: 072 632 7623, Deputy chairperson: (Raseruthe G , Secretary ; Mashao L. Cell: 078 099 9948	Water and Sanitation Business
Capricorn DM	Capricorn District	Capricorn District forum		11-May-17	MMC Mohale (Chairperson) Cllr Mashalane Lesley Mashao Cllr Lehong Mamma Mukhodwane Cllr Mphofela Maphefo Maja	Water and Sanitation Business

Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo DM	Umkhumbi LM	Injini Water and Sanitation Forum	30	18-Jul-25	Chairperson Mr S Mbedla Cell No 0728250620 Secretary: Mrs Noqwaka Cell No 0782635533	Water and Sanitation Business and Fixing of Taps
	Chris Hani DM	Dr AB Xuma LM	Clarkebury Water and Sanitation Forum	28	30-Nov-22	Chairperson: Ms O. Mroyia 0835251019 Secretary: Ms N. Mlotshwa 0725697926	Water and Sanitation Business and Pipe Leaks
		Sakhisizwe LM	Cala Water and Sanitation Forum	25	12-Nov-24	TBC	Water and Sanitation Services Delivery
	Joe Gqabi DM	Senqu LM	Jozana Water and Sanitation Forum	30	03-Aug-24	To be Confirmed	Water and Sanitation Business
	Joe Gqabi DM	Senqu LM	Ntsimekweni Water and Sanitation Forum	27	23-Jan-24	To be Confirmed	Water and Sanitation Business
	Amathole DM	Mnquma LM	3 Clusters (Butterworth, Centane, Nqamakhwe)	25	19-Jul-25	To be Confirmed	Water and Sanitation Services Delivery
	Amathole DM	Mbashe LM	3 Clusters	40	20-Jul-25	To be Confirmed	Water and Sanitation Services Delivery
	Amathole DM	Ngqushwa LM	3 Clusters (Humburg, Tamarha and Peddie)	38	21-Jul-25	To be Confirmed	Water and Sanitation Services Delivery
	Amathole DM	Raymond Mhlaba LM	4 Clusters	44	2026/02/02	To be Confirmed	Water and Sanitation Services Delivery
	Amathole DM	Great Kei LM	3 Clusters (Komga, Mooiplaas and Draaibosch)	24	2026/02/03	To be Confirmed	Water and Sanitation Services Delivery
	Amathole DM	Amahlathi LM	4 Cluster (Cathcart, Stutterheim etc)	37	2026/02/04	To be Confirmed	Water and Sanitation Services Delivery

* Note that the number of members per forum is not fixed and may vary from time to time. The numbers provided here are indicative and may have changed slightly for some forums when project implementation begins.

APPENDIX B: AIMS OF CURRENT WRC PROJECT ON THE FORUMS

Title

Strengthening community participation in municipal water services for improved water management in South Africa's rural and low-income urban areas

Lead organisation

International Water Management Institute

Abstract

Access to reliable water services remains a major challenge in many rural and low-income urban areas across South Africa, where communities often depend on informal water supply systems to meet their daily needs. Climate change is expected to worsen these challenges, placing additional pressure on already strained water systems. In response, the Water Research Commission (WRC), together with partners, has worked to strengthen community engagement in water governance. Over the past four years, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) has supported efforts to institutionalize the role of Water and Sanitation Community Forums (WSCFs) in municipal planning and service delivery. These forums offer a critical mechanism for amplifying community voices and promoting accountability. However, fragmented service delivery, limited municipal capacity, weak coordination, and insufficient political will continue to hinder effective integration. Building on previous successes, this project seeks to deepen the institutionalization of WSCFs while addressing sustainability gaps by developing practical governance models and innovative finance mechanisms. Through collaborative evidence gathering, co-designed training, and peer learning, the project will engage WSCFs as active researchers and co-producers of knowledge. It will also explore their potential as long-term partners in local water governance, helping to ensure more responsive, equitable, and sustainable service delivery beyond the life of the project.

Aims

Overall aim: To identify pathways for WSCFs integration into municipal water governance structures, ensuring their active involvement throughout the water project cycle i.e., planning, implementation, operations, and maintenance at the local level (DWS, SALGA, DFFE, DALRRD).

Sub aim 1: To establish evidence for integrating WSCFs into municipal water services by assessing the roles, capacity, and engagement priorities of WSCFs, municipal structures, and key partners like SALGA. This will identify barriers and cost-benefits to their participation while evaluating technical, governance, and coordination challenges at the local level.

Sub aim 2: To strengthen WSCFs' governance and technical capacity, enabling them to integrate local knowledge into municipal water governance and expand citizen science beyond data collection. This will empower WSCFs to actively contribute to policy development, governance, and water service delivery.

Sub aim: 3: Based on 1 and 2, identifying best-practice, replicable models that support the effective integration and long-term sustainability of WSCFs at the municipal level. These models will enhance WSCFs' ability to contribute to water service delivery and community-driven governance, ensuring their continued impact within local water governance systems.