



BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW (VLR) REPORT 2024

**A REVIEW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)**

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY. A CITY HARD AT WORK

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PREFACE

Over the past two decades, the world has grappled with numerous global and urban challenges. The impact of Covid-19 and ongoing conflicts between nations is exerting immense pressure on economies, livelihoods, and peace-building efforts. At the forefront of these adversities stand cities and local governments, tasked with confronting and addressing these issues while delivering essential solutions.

The United Nations (UN) predicts that by 2050, approximately 70% of the world's population will reside in urban areas. Cities like the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM), already grappling with issues such as high poverty levels, COVID-19-induced job losses, escalating rural-urban migration, sporadic climate change events, aging infrastructure, transformation, and capacity challenges, will face heightened strain and pressure in the next two decades as citizen demands rise and customer satisfaction is tested. To address future needs, demands, and challenges, the Municipality will prioritise the development of a sustainable, resilient, and smart city through innovative strategies and policies, partnerships, networks, and resource allocation.

With South Africa being one of the most developed countries on the African continent and a member of the African Union (AU), Agenda 2063 holds significant importance. Agenda 2063 seeks inclusive and sustainable development, embodying a pan-African vision for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress, and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance.

It is important to highlight that all frameworks acknowledge the pivotal role played by local governments in facilitating and achieving commitments and goals. Moreover, they recognise that decentralised cooperation presents a significant opportunity, both for empowering cities and regions in localising global agendas and for driving the social transformations necessary to achieve sustainable development.

In addition to the frameworks, the Global Task Force for Local and Regional Governments, which unites the major international networks of local governments, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UN Habitat, has developed a roadmap for joint advocacy relating to international policy processes, particularly the climate change agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Habitat III. The roadmap aims to support cities and regions to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

On behalf of the People of Buffalo City, it is my distinct honour to present BCMM's first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) on the SDGs.

Despite major progress in social outcomes, South Africa remains the most economically unequal country in the world. According to the country's Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the country's progress towards the SDGs at the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), inequality has escalated over the past decade, hampering advancements toward Goal 10 and obstructing the achievement of other SDGs and targets. It is within this context that the National Development Plan (NDP) prioritises the eradication of poverty, reduction of inequality, and the fostering of an inclusive economy by 2030. Aligned with the SDGs and the AU's Agenda 2063, the NDP goals are integrated into government planning systems and processes at the national, provincial, and local levels.

With only six years left to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SA has been actively advancing its efforts at the national level to report on the country's progress towards the SDGs. The national government acknowledges the necessity of incorporating local government data into VNRs for a realistic portrayal of interventions made on the ground. To ensure that municipalities serve as beacons of sustainability, economic prosperity, and self-reliance, we must strike a balance between the needs, expectations, and aspirations of our people and our available resources, skills, and service delivery capabilities. The prosperity of our city is dependent on all of us taking collective responsibility for our sustainability.

The SDGs and the VLR are viewed as opportunities to enhance alignment with international standards and best practices. They also enable the development of indicators and targets to establish an SDG dashboard accessible to the entire Municipality, as well as all stakeholders from other government departments, businesses, civil society, and the community, facilitating monitoring and collective efforts to achieve our goals. This approach will further promote transparency, foster a culture of accountability, and ensure that individuals are held responsible for their actions. It will also enhance the functionality of the District Development Model (DDM) and enable a realistic and credible Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and One Plan.



I am proud that BCMM was nominated as one of the five municipalities in the country this year for the localisation of the SDGs through the VLRs. This gives the Municipality an opportunity to see our direct contribution to realising the world's 2030 development agenda.

As a Municipality, we are aligning ourselves with the 17 SDGs established by the United Nations in 2015. These goals are integral to our national and local aspirations, and now we are meaningfully translating them into tangible initiatives for the betterment of our people, planet, prosperity, and peace, through partnerships at the local level. Our aim is to ensure that we “leave no one behind” and collectively make a meaningful contribution to transforming our world into a better place for all.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'Princess Faku'.

Councillor Princess Faku
EXECUTIVE MAYOR



Plate 1: Executive Mayor





BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

1.

INTRODUCTION

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA



1. INTRODUCTION

This VLR report offers a comprehensive overview of BCMM's implementation of the SDGs. It serves as a localised counterpart to the National SDG Review produced by the Republic of South Africa (RSA). Readers should approach this report with the understanding that certain global targets may not directly apply to the Municipality.

Against this backdrop, in South Africa, municipal developmental projects and priorities ideally align with the goals of the National Development Plan, which in turn are designed to be in harmony with the UN's SDGs. This report thus reflects BCMM's efforts to align its programmes with the SDGs, outlining successes, shortcomings, and areas where development assistance and partnerships are needed.







BUFFALO CITY
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2.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
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2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SDG ALIGNMENT IN BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

The Metro Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS): Vision 2030 outlines BCMM's aspirational vision and strategic intent. Broadly speaking, it aligns with the SDGs through direct reference to them and its alignment with South Africa's NDP: Vision 2030.

The MGDS adheres to city development best practices by emphasising the importance of inclusive growth, innovation, spatial transformation, densification, environmental sustainability, financial sustainability, and good governance for the city. Moreover, it aligns with the SDGs and the NDP by emphasising multi-agency partnerships with the private sector, universities, and civil society as a central mechanism for implementation. Any development project undertaken in BCMM must demonstrate clear alignment with the MGDS and thus the SDGs.

This report is therefore a VLR of SDGs, with significant reflection on the implementation of the MGDS in Buffalo City, as the SDG location and mainstreaming in BCMM is actioned through the MGDS. The BCMM One Plan and the IDP serve as planning and implementation documents for all development projects in BCMM in accordance with the SDGs and community aspirations.



BCMM OVERVIEW AND REPORT CONTEXTUALISATION

Before delving into the focus of the report, an overview of BCMM is provided, including its geographical location in South Africa. The Municipality is bordered by a pristine Indian Ocean coastline, and by municipalities such as Nkonkobe, Great Kei, Ngqushwa, and Amahlathi. BCMM is the second largest municipality in the Eastern Cape (EC) province, and its central location makes it a crucial city for the entire eastern region, often referred to as the former Transkei, and the central region areas, often referred to as the former Ciskei. The population dynamics and the economic performance provide the local context of the city, particularly its approach to sustainable development.

This section also illustrates the Municipality's adherence to various global frameworks governing sustainable development, such as the New Urban Agenda, the Sendai Framework, and the African Agenda. This sets the stage for the detailed outline of how the city has localised and implemented the SDGs.

THE VLR REPORT FOCUS

As the Inaugural VLR Report of BCMM, it was deemed essential for the Municipality to realistically consider time and other factors in delivering a well-documented and credible report. Therefore, instead of addressing all 17 SDGs, six (6) of them were carefully selected. These six (6) SDGs are applicable to BCMM and demonstrate interlinkages and interconnectedness with the other 11 SDGs. We view this not as a limitation of the report, but rather as its strength, as it allows for a sharp focus on the selected SDGs. Thus, the focus of this VLR Report will be on the following six SDGs:

- SDG 1: No Poverty
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals



SDG 1: END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE.

SDG 1 details all measures undertaken by BCMM to combat poverty. A municipality is regarded as a primary facilitator for numerous poverty-alleviation endeavours, one of which involves fostering a conducive environment for businesses to thrive. This, in turn, facilitates job creation, thereby contributing significantly to poverty alleviation. This section of the report outlines the development projects and initiatives pursued to make Buffalo City conducive to business. Notably, the city allocated land for the construction of the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ), now designated as a special economic zone. BCMM holds a 26% stake in this special economic zone, which accommodates companies that offer crucial employment opportunities to city residents.

Poverty-fighting measures funded through our budget have also been delineated, encompassing initiatives such as the municipal rates indigent subsidy for impoverished consumers, support provided to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) through the Grants-in-Aid programme, the Municipal Bursary Programme, and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

SDG 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS.

The assessment presented in this report indicates a lack of sufficient integration of SDG 5 within the Municipality, a challenge also observed in other state entities. While the leadership and management of the Municipality demonstrate a commitment to women empowerment and transformation, it is challenging to determine whether this has led to tangible contributions in development budgeting and project implementation that prioritise women and vulnerable groups.

This section concludes by stating that the ongoing VLR and localisation of the SDGs will help institutionalise disaggregated indicators and targets. This will better reflect the inclusion and advancement of vulnerable groups within the Municipality's planning and budgeting processes, as well as improve their access to basic services.



SDG 6: ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL.

BCMM has made significant strides in providing water and sanitation services to all its residents. It is acknowledged that water and sanitation are inherently reflected and/or implied in all the other goals, as this is required for the sustainable development of cities. BCMM is implementing efforts to achieve SDG 6, recognising its pivotal role in driving progress across all other SDGs, and vice versa. Sustainable management of water and sanitation underpins wider efforts to end poverty, advance sustainable development, and sustain peace and stability.

The report shows that at least 97,3% of BCMM's population has access to a clean and safe water supply (Statistics South Africa [StatsSA], 2022a). The city has been applauded for its high-quality water produced and supplied to the community. In compliance with national statutory mandates, the city provided better quality sanitation services to approximately 97,9% of the population (StatsSA, 2022a).

SDG 11: MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE.

The VLR Report offers further insights into the Municipality's strides towards achieving the targets outlined in SDG 11: 'Sustainable Cities and Communities', which seeks to "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". The report details progress and challenges related to nine of the 10 targets of SDG 11, reflecting the city's performance in institutionalising SDG 11 and its related targets. While SDG 11 has not been entirely realised in Buffalo City, notable efforts are underway to meet its targets, signalling visible progress in this regard.



SDG 13: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS.

Across the globe, numerous extreme weather events have underscored the urgency for municipalities to prioritise SDG 13: Climate Action. Climate change is an undeniable reality, with cities and towns bearing the brunt of its impacts. In BCMM, threats such as rising sea levels, drought, flooding, and extreme heat events have already been witnessed. To mitigate these effects and bolster resilience, the Municipality recognises the imperative for enhanced planning and preparedness. It has earnestly addressed the issue of climate change through its Climate Change Strategy, which entails an action programme aimed at raising awareness, guiding development, integrating climate change into planning and infrastructure cycles, and implementing initiatives for environmental protection and long-term sustainability. Additionally, the Municipality has introduced the Greenbook MetroView and is actively exploring adaptation projects in alternative energy, water quality enhancement, and waste management, with a focus on collection, recycling, or upcycling.

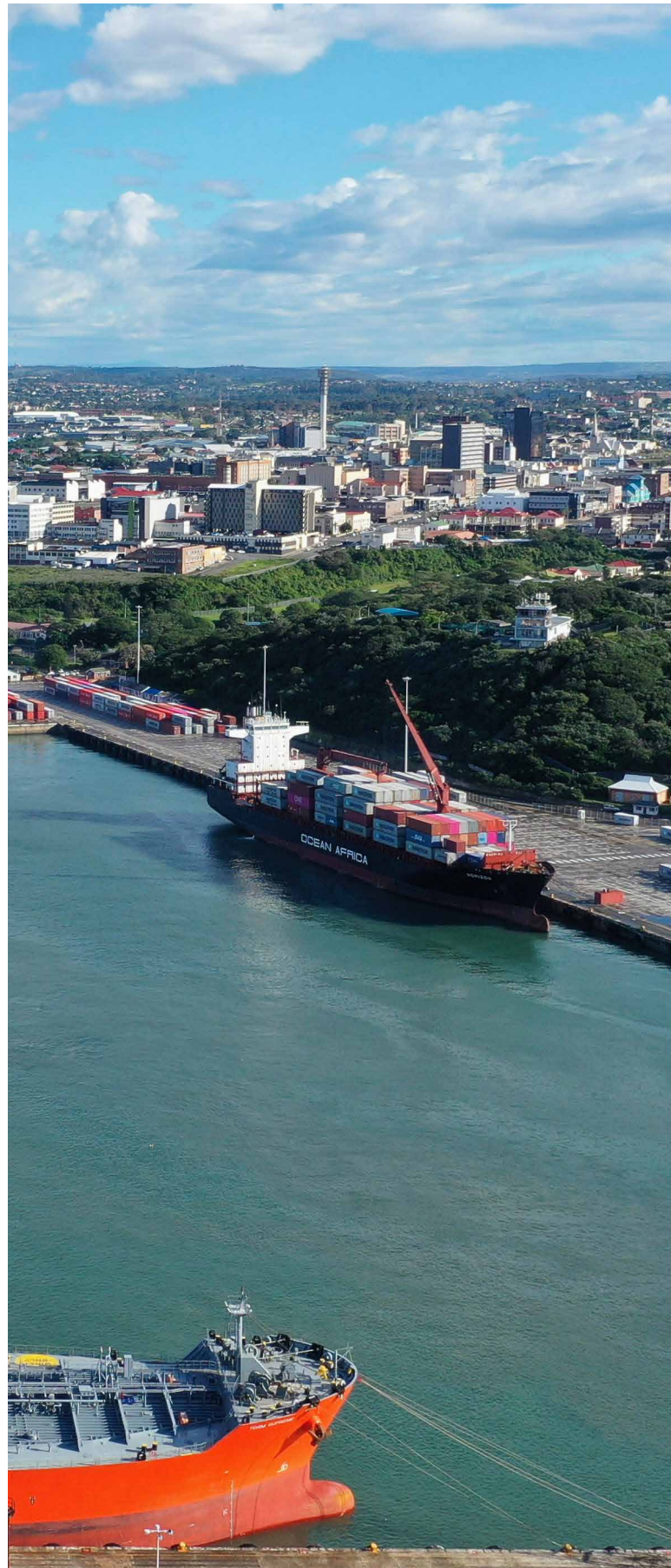
SDG 17: STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

In this concluding section, the VLR Report acknowledges the pivotal role that local government international relations have played since South Africa's transition to democracy. These relations have contributed significantly to the increasing interaction between South Africa and the global community, both bilaterally and multilaterally, guided by the principles of South African Foreign Policy. Municipalities across South Africa, including BCMM, have actively participated in a wide range of activities with international associations and cities, including twinning agreements, exchange programmes, and conferences. This section serves as a positive reflection of the achievements in international relations activities while also alluding to possible future cooperation and partnerships.

Furthermore, the Municipality's partnerships with businesses, civil society organisations, NGOs, other government departments, and religious organisations demonstrate its recognition that achieving sustainable development requires collective effort. The Municipality understands that it cannot embark on this journey alone; it needs the involvement of all stakeholders, including residents and communities, to align with the developmental trajectory and take ownership of the city's growth and development.



As the Municipality and the city at large continue to embrace the localisation of the SDGs, this baseline report will serve as a foundational resource, guiding and fortifying the content of all future VLR Reports. More importantly, for a better Buffalo City, People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership must become central to the sustainable development agenda of the city.







BUFFALO CITY
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3.

OVERVIEW OF BCMM

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
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3. OVERVIEW OF BUFFALO CITY METRO

BCMM is located on the East Coast of Southern Africa. Boasting the only river port in the South Africa, it takes its name from the Buffalo River that meanders through the Municipality, touching the lives of the many communities that live along its banks. According to the 2022 Census (StatsSA, 2022a), the population of the municipal area has grown from 781 853 to 975 255 since the last census in 2011, showing a 2,1% growth rate.

The new municipal area was formed in the year 2000. The entire municipal demarcation comprises a coastal plain and a hinterland coastal plateau, lying between 300 and 500 metres above sea level. This constitutes the BCMM area, which is a spatial fragmentation of



urban and rural settlements, unlike many other metropolitan areas in the country. The municipality is in the Eastern Cape province, physically one of South Africa's largest provinces. Covering approximately 2 528 km², the municipal area stretches from the port of East London in the east to Dimbaza in the west and includes Bhisho – the Legislative Capital - Qonce, and the industrial township of Berlin (Ntabazuko).

The municipal area is also characterised by the existence of a considerable number of disadvantaged communities inside and outside the formal boundaries. These scattered and diversely developed areas, due to apartheid spatial planning, are remnants of South Africa's apartheid past, and contribute to the current

challenges faced by the Municipality in creating compact cities.

The prosperity of the area is, however, built on key industries such as the automotive industry, with motor assembly plants and supplier industries all feeding the Mercedes Benz plant in the West Bank Industrial area. Other industries include electronics, textiles, sweet manufacturing, citrus, wool, pineapples, and tourism. Da Gama Textiles, located in the city, is renowned for its famous Shweshwe print, which is synonymous with the culture and traditions of the region.



The city is also home to the ELIDZ, which was one of the first industrial development zones (IDZs) in the country to be awarded a provisional operator's licence in 2002. The ELIDZ is positioned as an engineered globally competitive industrial park to attract investment and boost job creation in the area.

Educational institutions like Walter Sisulu University (WSU) and the University of Fort Hare (UFH), together with other primary and tertiary institutions, provide diverse and sound learning curricula for the diverse needs of the population.

The Municipality is also a regional hub for trade, commerce, and industry, particularly for the densely populated and underdeveloped rural hinterland.

Recognised as a catalyst and enabler, its strategic regional location positions it to spearhead the shaping of regional growth and development. Collaborative efforts with neighbouring districts and local municipalities hold immense potential across various domains, further amplifying the Municipality's impact as a leader in regional development.

BCMM possesses numerous appealing characteristics that contribute to its charm as a laid-back destination. These include affordability, a favourable climate, warm hospitality, excellent cuisine, and a relaxed atmosphere. Additionally, the city boasts a vibrant cultural scene with arts and crafts markets, galleries, theatres, and monuments that add to its allure. Along the beachfront stands the Multi-Cultural



Man, a symbol of diversity and unity. Sculpted by Italian artist Francesco Perilli, this statue is a unique landmark, being the only one of its kind in Africa, located at Heroes' Park on the East London Esplanade. Furthermore, BCMM offers outstanding sports facilities and frequently hosts a variety of sporting events such as cricket, swimming, soccer, surfing, sailing, golf, cycling, boxing, and more, contributing to its status as a breeding ground for international sporting icons.

The Municipality's strategic positioning as a hub to the Sunshine Coast and Wild Coast Routes, as well as the Amatola region, offers convenient access to a diverse array of landscapes, pristine beaches, and natural wonders. This includes an abundance of flora and

fauna supported by five major biomes. Moreover, the area features extensive and well-preserved rock art sites. The East London Museum serves as a fascinating resource, providing insights into Xhosa culture, showcasing the internationally acclaimed fossil, the coelacanth, the 120 000-year-old footprint discovered at Nahoon Point Nature Reserve, and preserving remnants of the cruise liner Oceanos. These all serve as a poignant reminder of the wild nature of the treacherous coastline. BCMM's natural environment, complemented by its picturesque and expansive landscapes, as well as its coastal plains, provide a foundation for a quality of life that surpasses that of many cities in South Africa.





BUFFALO CITY
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4.

METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA



4. METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

4.1 SOUTH AFRICA'S ADVANCEMENT OF THE SDGS

As a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, South Africa is obligated to align its programmes and strategies with international commitments. It must ensure adherence to the fundamental principles of the 2030 Agenda, guided by the imperative of “Leave No One Behind”, and strive to promote the social transformations necessary for achieving sustainable development.

South Africa has made significant strides in aligning its development goals with the SDGs. The NDP: Vision 2030 serves as the country's roadmap, emphasising convergence with the SDGs. While progress has been achieved, there remains work ahead to fully realise

the SDGs. Monitoring and evaluation, partnerships, and implementation tools are crucial areas requiring continued attention. National guidance and coordinated efforts can further enhance South Africa's progress toward these global goals. The baseline review of the 2019 and 2022 VNRs has been well-received, paving the way for the development of VLRs by local and regional governments.

It has been ascertained that local government data is limited in the VNR. Considering that municipalities are the physical spaces where development occurs and where the greatest impacts are felt, it is imperative for municipalities to recognise the significance of data collection, retention, and analysis. This data not only contributes to the VNRs but also aids municipalities in strengthening evidence-based planning, prioritisation, and budgeting processes.



4.2 BCMM'S STRIDES IN LOCALISATION OF THE SDGS

Since 2002, BCMM has been fostering international partnerships with cities abroad. As these partnerships have grown and evolved, the municipality recognised the importance of aligning its efforts with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) initially. This alignment was aimed at making a more significant contribution towards poverty reduction by 2015. During this period, there were eight goals aimed to be achieved by 2015, addressing the world's primary development challenges. In response, the Municipality aligned its projects and programmes with international partnerships, notably with the City of Gävle in Sweden and the City of Leiden in the Netherlands. These partnerships focused on various aspects of the MDGs, including Poverty Eradication, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, HIV/AIDS, Health, Education, and Environmental Sustainability.

In 2015, when the UN adopted the SDGs, BCMM naturally continued its work with the SDGs through its international partnerships. By then, these partnerships

had expanded to include the Nets Africa Programme with Italy and the City of Oldenburg Partnership in Germany.

Whilst the Municipality has been working with the SDGs through its international programmes, it has never reported to the national government or to the UN on the programmes and projects. As many partnerships with BCMM have been established in the Global North, numerous projects with international partners necessitate alignment with the principles of the SDGs when applying for international resources and projects. Consequently, the projects undertaken over the past 10 to 15 years have been aligned with the SDGs.

BCMM is currently implementing the District Development Model (DDM) and One Plan, with aim of facilitating integrated planning across the three spheres of government for a 30-year period. Various stakeholders including government entities, civil society organisations, NGOs, businesses, institutions of higher learning, and others have actively collaborated with the Municipality through numerous participatory processes. Together, they were instrumental in developing and presenting the first One Plan in 2021.



Through the BCMM Political and Technical Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Forums established within the Municipality, regular three-sphere engagements have been conducted from 2019 to the present. These engagements aim to integrate the transformative plans of government in the physical space of the Municipality, fostering positive changes in people's lives, whether economically, socially, or environmentally. In 2022, the Municipality undertook to revise its IGR Framework. A deliberate decision was made to incorporate the SDGs into the framework, demonstrating alignment with the Municipality's IDP, One Plan, and the MGDS: Vision 2030.

I. Call to Municipalities to Localise the SDGs

In March 2023, BCMM participated in a 3-day Capacity Building Workshop with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), and the South African National Planning Commission (NPC) on the localisation of the SDGs and the need to initiate reporting through the VLR process into the VNR for South Africa.

Following the capacity building workshop, a report was drafted in May 2023 for the BCMM Council to localise the SDGs, and approval was given in July 2023.

In August 2023, SALGA issued a call to municipalities to apply for support for the "Localisation of the SDGs through the VLRs". BCMM heeded the call in mid-August 2023.

In September 2023, BCMM was chosen as one of the five metropolitan municipalities tasked with localising the SDGs through the VLRs. Following the selection, workshops were conducted from 25 to 27 October 2023 in Gauteng, 28 to 30 November 2023 in eThekweni, and 29 to 29 March 2024 in Johannesburg. These workshops aimed to aid, support, and guide municipalities in preparing their VLR submissions.



I. Institutional Arrangements

As of August 2023, BCMM kickstarted several processes to encourage support towards localisation of the SDGs.



Figure 1: Institutional arrangements

In terms of institutional arrangements, the Executive Mayor serves as the political champion, providing guidance and leadership to the Mayoral Committee and Councillors in their efforts to achieve the SDGs. The City Manager acts as the Technical Champion, supported by the Head of Directorate: Executive Support Services, overseeing International Relations, the Integrated Development Planning Unit, and the Strategy and Transforming Unit. Together, they ensure alignment and offer guidance and support to departments and units in their pursuit of the SDGs and the drafting of the VLR Report.

The Municipality established an SDG Core Group consisting of representatives from key departments including the International Relations Unit, Integrated Planning Unit, and Water and Sanitation Department, all of which had already been involved in some capacity with the SDGs. In September 2023, the SDG Core Group identified additional representatives from various departments who could contribute significantly to the localisation process. These included Special Programmes, focusing on vulnerable groups; Integrated Environmental Management, addressing Climate Change; Strategy and Transformation, overseeing strategic direction from the Office of the City Manager; Knowledge Management, responsible for research and data collection; and Spatial Planning, overseeing the Spatial Development Framework of the Municipality. This collective was established as the Technical SDG Working Group.

Relationship between existing coordination structures and new institutional structures for VLR preparation

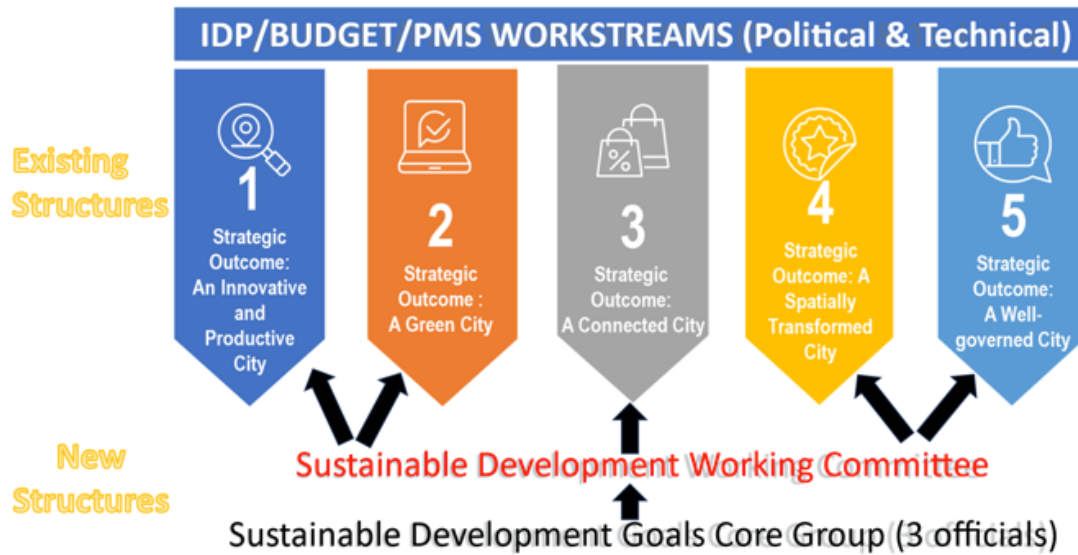


Figure 2: BCMM coordinating structure for the SDGs

Political Workstreams consist of delegated BCMM Councillors, representatives from all BCMM directorates, officials directly engaged in managing and implementing issues related to specific themes, as well as representatives from Provincial and National Government State Departments, State-owned Enterprises, Agencies, and Parastatals.

Technical Workstreams comprise officials from all three spheres of government and external stakeholder representatives solely from organised formations. These Workstreams are chaired by Technical Workstream leaders. In contrast, Political Workstreams include both officials and Councillors and are chaired by Political Workstream champions.

SDG Core Group members (officials identified for technical responsibilities) will, in future, be assigned to each of the Political and Technical Workstreams to enrich the transversal planning efforts of the Municipality.

The SDG Core Group convened regular meetings from October 2023 to March 2024 to prepare for the VLR. During these sessions, the group identified writers and contributors for each of the SDGs and offered guidance and support to the appointed writers.



II. Communication and Advocacy

Communication and advocacy for the SDGs were seen as very important for BCMM, as many of the political leadership and officials in the Municipality had not been directly involved with the SDGs. Communication and advocacy were advanced through meetings, workshops, reports, the BCMM electronic Newsletter, and promotional material.

Therefore, several small online and in-person meetings were held with managers in the Municipality who were required to contribute to the VLR Report. The report was tabled through Council processes in May 2023 to the Strategic Development Portfolio Committee, followed by the Mayoral Committee and the BCMM Council, to approve the SDG localisation in the Municipality. This encouraged political and technical representatives to understand the SDGs and their alignment with the functions of the Municipality. The BCMM Council's approval of the localisation of the SDGs through the VLRs in July 2023 kickstarted a chain reaction within the Municipality, establishing the necessary Core and Steering Committees, initiating communication and advocacy programmes, and conducting manager meetings. This demonstrated the importance the Municipality placed on participating in the SDG localisation and VLR process.

The two-stakeholder workshop was also used to advocate to internal and external stakeholders to support the localisation process and embrace the SDGs. Furthermore, marketing and communication materials were developed, including SDG boxes, screens, and pins. The SDG boxes were produced in both English and isiXhosa. The translation of the SDG goals into isiXhosa was considered important as it allowed predominantly indigenous language speakers to identify with the goals, and it would hold more meaning for the community if it was in the local language. The screens are used at all SDG events to promote the SDGs and create familiarity with the goals that need to be achieved. The SDG pins were handed out to all internal and external stakeholders who attended the stakeholder workshop. All 100 Councillors will also be issued with the pins to advocate and promote the SDGs.

Plans are also in place to capacitate Councillors, officials, and external stakeholders on the SDGs in the new financial year.

Marketing Material



SDG boxes: Produced in English & isiXhosa: The translation of the SDG goals into isiXhosa was seen as important as it allow predominantly indigenous language speakers, to identify the goals and it would hold more meaning for the community if it was in the local language



SDG Screens: The screens are used at all SDG events to promote the SDGs and create familiarity with the goals that must be achieved.

- Plans are also in place for councillors, officials and external stakeholders to be capacitated on the SDGs in the new financial year.

SDG Pins: The SDG pins were handed to all internal and external stakeholders who attended the stakeholder workshop. All 100 of Councillors will also be issued with the pins to advocate and promote the SDGs.



Figure 3: BCMM SDG marketing and promotional material

The BCMM electronic newsletter serves as an internal publication, reaching over 6 000 officials and all Councillors. It featured coverage of the SDG stakeholder workshop. The SDG screens are used as tools for the internal and external communication and promotion of the SDGs, events, and meetings.

BCMM has committed to localising the SDGs and recognises that it cannot achieve all the goals on its own. However, through collaboration with stakeholders, many of the SDGs can be achieved. To facilitate the VLR process, the Municipality conducted several communication and advocacy efforts, presented at various internal and external platforms to engage all stakeholders, and obtained the necessary approvals from the Council:



III. Stakeholder Engagement

Starting from October 2023, BCMM conducted a series of meetings aimed at raising awareness, garnering stakeholder buy-in, and providing support. These meetings included:

Table 1: Communication/Meetings/Awareness Raising/Stakeholder Engagements

Communication/Meeting /Awareness Raising/ Stakeholder Engagement	Date
Internal SDG localisation meeting	12 October 2023
Meeting BCMM and UN Representative, Mr Chris Bowa	17 October 2023
Presentation on the Localisation of the SDGs to the BCMM Technical Intergovernmental Forum Session (Comprising of Sector Departments, Parastatals, and State-Owned Enterprises)	1 November 2023
Preparatory Meeting for the SDGs Stakeholder Workshop	13 November 2023
Internal and External Stakeholder SDG Workshop	20 & 21 November 2023
Meeting with the SDG Core Group – Discussion on Interrelatedness of the SDG Goals	6 December 2023
Presentation on the Interrelatedness of SDG Goals to the BCMM IGR Core Group	8 December 2023
Meeting with the SDG Core Group – allocation of tasks for writing of VLR Report	13 December 2023
Meeting of the SDG Core Group	24 January 2024
Meeting with SDG and StatsSA	02 February 2024
VLR Writing Retreat Johannesburg	27 February to 1 March 2024
Meeting of the SDG Working Committee	12 March 2024
Presenting of Draft VLR Report to the Strategic Development Portfolio Committee	9 April 2024
Presentation to the 7 th Networking Session on Water Operator Partnerships with GIZ on BCMMs Roadmap with SDGs	24-26 th April
Presenting Draft VLR Report to the Mayoral Committee	7 May 2024
BCMM SDGs Podcast with Dr Harlan Cloete – University of Free State https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/harlan-ca-cloete/episodes/Join-our-trialogue-in-S7E13--with-officials-from-the-Buffalo-City-Metropolitan-Municipality-and-how-they-localise-the-Sustainable-Development-Goals-SDGs-e2k5grc	20 May 2024



Plate 2: BCMM Internal Workshop on SDGs Localisation (20 November 2024)

As an essential component of the SDGs localisation process, stakeholder engagement plays a crucial role in the VLRs. In line with this, on 20 and 21 November 2023, BCMM organised both internal and external stakeholder workshops at the Regent Hotel in East London.

• **Internal Stakeholder Workshop – 20 November 2024**

The workshop focused on Programme Managers in the Municipality who were responsible for the implementation of key programmes across the Municipality. Targeting Programme Managers was strategic, as they could furnish valuable data on projects and initiatives within the Municipality that correlated with the SDGs. Moreover, the session aimed to cultivate interest, disseminate knowledge, and deliver a progress report on BCMM's advancement in the localisation process. Crucially, it served to garner support and persuade Programme Managers to embrace the SDGs as a transformative, cross-cutting action plan for the Municipality. Additionally, it provided a platform to highlight how aligning with the SDGs and VLRs can enhance conformity to international standards and best practices.



• **External Workshop – 21 November 2024**

The workshop aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- Launch the SDGs localisation through the VLR in BCMM by the Executive Mayor of the Municipality.
- Launch the Greenbook MetroView for BCMM, an online tool providing spatialised and quantified climate risk, vulnerability, and demographic evidence. This tool aids in communication, analysis, and decision-making for developing climate-resilient settlements (Green Book, 2023).
- Orient both internal and external stakeholders about BCMM's SDGs localisation process through the VLRs.
- Strengthen awareness and multi-stakeholder partnerships for implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda and SDGs through the Global Guiding Elements for VLRs.
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation and knowledge exchange on monitoring and reviewing SDGs at the local level.
- Build capacity for conducting comprehensive local reviews of SDG implementation that complement and feed into follow-up and review processes carried out by the national government's VNR.
- Increase awareness regarding how the VLR process can be utilised to enhance data gathering and analysis for tackling urban-rural differences within South Africa.
- Gather stakeholder feedback through a survey, assessing their knowledge, understanding, and alignment of projects and programmes with the SDGs.
- The session was conducted both in person and virtually to facilitate participation from international partners and other stakeholders. A questionnaire was distributed to all participants to assess the extent of stakeholder engagement in SDG-related endeavours.



The stakeholders that participated in the workshop and in meetings with BCMM include:

Table 2: Government stakeholders

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality	National Government Departments	Provincial Government Departments	Government Entities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Mayor • Speaker • Chief Whip, • Members of the Mayoral Committee • City Manager • Head of Directorates • Relevant General Managers and Senior Managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Water and Sanitation • National Department of Energy • National Department of Higher Education and Training • National Dept of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism • Statistics South Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Cape Office of the Premier • EC Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs • EC Finance, Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism • EC Department of Education • EC Department of Health • EC Department of Social Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amatola Water • Transnet (Freight & Ports Authority) • Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) • South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) • Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) • EC Parks and Tourism Agency • EC Development Corporation • EL IDZ • South African National Biodiversity Institute



Table 3: Private sector, NGOs/civil society, media, institutions of higher learning, and international partners

Private Sector/ Business	Non-Profit & Civil Society Organisations	Members of the Media	Institutions of Higher Learning	BCMM International Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border Kei Chamber of Business • Mercedes Benz South Africa (MBSA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Budget Partnership South Africa • Avuniko Developers Social Housing Institute • Nahoon Estuary Management Forum • Women and gender equality – S.H.E. • People With Disabilities – Eastern Cape Disability Economic Empowerment Trust • Youth and Children organisations • Masimanyane Women’s Support Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Dispatch • Kumkani FM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Fort Hare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Oldenburg • Aachen University • OOWV (Water Authority in City of Oldenburg)

The Executive Mayor’s outreach to the 50 wards of the City, towards the end of 2023 and beginning of 2024, showed how the VLRs could help to better respond to the specific needs of local communities and geographical areas.

After several engagements since March 2023 with SALGA, NPC, UNDP, and other municipalities that share similar objectives, the SDGs and the VLRs are increasingly recognised as avenues for aligning with international standards and best practices. Moreover, they present an opportunity to establish indicators and targets for the entire BCMM and its stakeholders to pursue collectively. This approach fosters transparency and encourages stakeholders to take responsibility for SDG localisation efforts. It will also create alignment with the DDM and be incorporated into the IDP and One Plan.



IV. Challenges in SDG Localisation

The implementation of SDG localisation in BCMM encountered the following challenges:

- Limited exposure of both internal and external stakeholders to the SDGs necessitated more communication and advocacy programmes. However, due to time constraints, these efforts were restricted. Steps will be taken to address this shortfall in the future.
- Tight schedules impeded the organisation of more consultative sessions with all stakeholders, both internal and external.
- Insufficient time for training all BCMM departments in reporting on the SDGs resulted in the selection of only six (6) SDGs for reporting.
- Difficulty in gathering data from line departments highlighted a lack of recognition regarding the importance of collecting, recording, and presenting qualitative and quantitative data. Efforts are underway to establish a method for comprehensive data collection, analysis, and presentation to inform evidence-based planning, budgeting, and decision-making.
- Data requiring verification through StatsSA faces delays in the South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SASQAF) process. Steps will be taken to streamline this process as BCMM begins submitting data to StatsSA for verification.
- Limited resources for communication and advocacy programmes pose a challenge. However, partnerships will be leveraged to enhance resource availability for these initiatives in the future.







BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

5.

POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA





5. POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

5.1. THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTION (RSA, 1996)

South Africa operates as a participatory democracy, with its legal foundation outlined in the 1996 Constitution. This Constitution delineates the rights and responsibilities of the nation's citizens and defines the structure of government.

In terms of the Constitution (RSA, 1996), section 155.1a, BCMM is a category A municipality, a metropolitan municipality, which can “reasonably be regarded as, 15 (a) a conurbation featuring, areas of high population density, an intense movement of people, goods, and services, extensive development, and multiple business districts and industrial areas which a centre of economic activity with a complex and diverse economy, a single area for which integrated development planning is desirable, and having strong interdependent social and economic linkages between its constituent units”.

Furthermore, Chapter 7 of the Constitution (RSA, 1996), section 152(1), outlines the objects of local government, namely:

- a) To provide democratic and accountable government for local communities.
- b) To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner.
- c) To promote social and economic development.
- d) To promote a safe and healthy environment; and
- e) To encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government.

There are clear alignments to the objectives of local government and the SDGs, especially the emphasis on the responsibilities of a municipality to be economically, socially, and environmentally viable, as well as to involve stakeholders. This directly aligns with the three dimensions of the SDGs and is particularly related to SDG 11: ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’, which is the fundamental purpose for the existence of municipalities.



The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (RSA, 1996) vests municipalities with a range of powers and functions aimed at providing essential services such as water, sanitation, and electricity. These include:

- Ensuring the overall well-being of inhabitants by fostering economic development.
- Regulating and overseeing land use within their municipal boundaries.
- Implementing measures for the conservation and enhancement of the physical environment.
- Promoting education, recreation, culture, and social welfare within their jurisdiction or, if needed, in neighbouring areas.
- Maintaining infrastructure such as roads, bridges, culverts, drainage systems, and other public works within their territorial jurisdiction.
- Managing the disposal of waste collected from their own municipal area or from nearby areas, subject to agreements with relevant provincial departments.

These powers and functions empower municipalities to cultivate an environment conducive to enhancing the quality of life for their residents.

5.2 THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FRAMEWORK ACT, NO. 13 OF 2005

The IGR Framework Act, enacted in 2005, sets out the general principles and objectives of intergovernmental relations

(RSA, 2005). The focus is primarily on the outcomes that the governance system must achieve, which is improved service delivery on the ground to the residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

“Intergovernmental relations are intended to promote and facilitate co-operative decision-making and ensure that policies and activities across all spheres encourage service delivery and meet the needs of the citizens in an effective way” Department of Local Government (DPLG, 1997:3).

The intergovernmental system, therefore, depends on well-coordinated policy, planning, budgeting, implementation, and reporting. This is necessary both within spheres and between spheres and is enabled through technical, executive, and legislative consultative forums (BCMM, 2023a).





Figure 4: Outcomes of the IGR system

Section 41(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (RSA, 1996) underscores the critical need for cooperation, mutual trust, and good faith among the three spheres of government. This implies that all spheres are dedicated to ensuring the well-being of the people of South Africa and must therefore deliver effective, transparent, accountable, and cohesive governance for the nation. This commitment is essential for achieving the objective of cooperative government (BCMM, 2023a).

In 2019, the DDM and One Plan were introduced to foster cooperative intergovernmental relations among all three spheres of government. This initiative aims to support local government in enhancing service delivery and establishing an enabling environment for sustainable environmental, social, and economic activities.



5.3 BCMM POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

South Africa comprises eight metropolitan municipalities, with BCMM ranked seventh among them. BCMM stands out as one of the top ten most densely populated centres in the Eastern Cape province. The Municipality boasts a youthful demographic, with the South African Census of 2022 indicating approximately 561,965 individuals aged between 1 and 34 years residing within its borders, constituting 57.6% of the total population. However, due to limited job prospects, many young residents migrate to larger cities in search of better opportunities, leading to a significant reliance on social grants. Unemployment, particularly among the youth, remains a pressing challenge. Therefore, achieving SDG 1, SDG 5, and SDG 11 is crucial for the Municipality, and necessitates collaboration with other stakeholders.

5.3.1 BCMM Vision Statement

Like many municipalities across the country, BCMM faces numerous economic, social, and environmental challenges. Despite these obstacles, both the municipality and its residents have demonstrated resilience over time. BCMM has transformed itself from a past marked by division and fragmentation. It boasts an untouched and picturesque coastline, serves as the capital of the Eastern Cape province, and is home to a globally competitive auto industry along with outstanding educational and medical facilities. With these assets, the Municipality possesses the ability, ambition, and capacity to shape the future of its people. It aspires to its long-term vision of becoming a Buffalo City that is **“well-governed, connected, green, and innovative”**.

5.3.2 Mission Statement

Through the BCMM Mission Statement, the Municipality aims to:

- Promote a culture of good governance.
- Provide effective and efficient municipal services.
- Invest in the development and retention of human capital to service the city and its community.
- Promote social and equitable economic development.
- Ensure municipal sustainability and financial viability.
- Create a safe and healthy environment; and
- Place Batho Pele (‘Putting People First’) at the centre of Service Delivery.

5.3.3 Strategic Outcomes

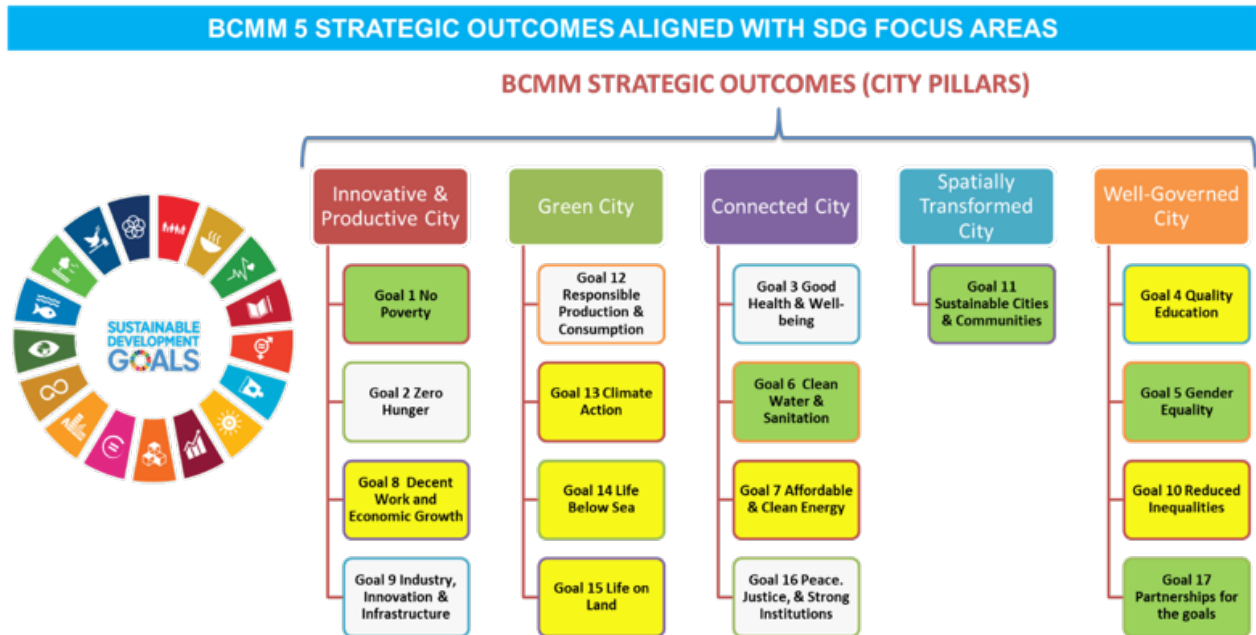


Figure 5: BCMM strategic outcomes (city pillars) aligned with SDGs

BCMM strives to realise the following five strategic municipal outcomes by 2030, and through alignment to the SDGs and reporting through the VLRs, on the five pillars of the MGDS of being:

- **An innovative and productive city:** with rapid and inclusive economic growth, and a decline in unemployment
- **A green city:** environmentally sustainable with optimal benefits from our natural assets. A clean and healthy city of subtropical gardens.
- **A connected city:** high-quality (and competitively priced) connections to ICT, electricity, and transport networks (inside the city and to the outside world).
- **A spatially transformed city:** progressively overcoming apartheid spatial divisions and fragmentation, with township economies becoming more productive.
- **A well-governed city:** a smart and responsive municipality (working with other levels of government) that plans and efficiently delivers high-quality services and cost-effective infrastructure, without maladministration and political disruptions.



5.3.4 Strategic Informants and Goals

BCMM is guided by the long-term 2050 vision, which was jointly developed by all relevant stakeholders to be:

“A well-governed, connected, healthy and smart metropolitan port city region built on sustainable physical infrastructure, cohesive partnerships and a diverse people who are safe, healthy and educated”.

- **Port City and City-in-Region**
The Eastern Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (ECPsDF) identifies BCMM as one of the province’s key present and future nodal points, warranting prioritised spatial planning attention.

BCMM has consolidated its position as a city-in-a-region, serving as a focal point for socio-economic development, essential services, and advanced human settlement in the central area of the EC Province. The Municipality bears the responsibility of catalysing and facilitating regional growth and development, a role of paramount importance. The Municipality possesses significant potential to spearhead the shaping of the region’s future in terms of growth and development, leveraging its strategic location and accessibility via rail, road, port, and airport networks. Collaborating with neighbouring districts and local municipalities offers numerous opportunities, particularly within potential development corridors

such as the smart city and the eastern seaboard development and expansion. Intermunicipal transport corridors along the coast from BCMM to KwaZulu-Natal, as well as in the hinterland leading to Lesotho, are prime examples of areas where intermunicipal cooperation can thrive.

Furthermore, the Municipality’s proximity to the sea and the agricultural opportunities presented by the hinterland require greater regional engagement in the ocean economy and the sustainability of marine ecosystems. Protection of the region’s vital agricultural, conservation, and industrial lands, as well as adaptation to climate change impacts, necessitates greater regional collaboration to enable a vibrant, inclusive, and diverse economy. Enhanced collaboration can enable long-range planning to manage the anticipated growth of the region.

- **Capitalising on the Knowledge Economy**
The core functional elements of the municipal area are its roles as a hub for an evolving knowledge economy and sustainable infrastructure production and innovation; a centre of industrial development with an innovative and world-class motor industry cluster at its heart; and a city that offers a rich lifestyle experience through the quality of its natural environment, the range of social, cultural, and leisure activities offered in the area, and the excellence of its public infrastructure and social institutions.



The National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF) identified Buffalo City as one of five key urban regions. The role of the identified urban regions is to be global gateways and to serve as engines of transformation, inclusive economic growth, and well-being.

Specifically, the NSDF has proposed a national coastal spatial development corridor which affects the EC and Buffalo City. The Municipality has a strategic economic role to play within the Coastal Transformation Corridor.

As a designated urban region, the NSDF requires BCMM to focus on key economic activities, namely tourism and the knowledge economy, and to motivate for the upgrade and expansion of the East London Port and the King Phalo/East London Airport. The focus on young people guides BCMM to also focus on the economic opportunities associated with having universities in the city as well as focusing on research and development.

Some challenges include the scarcity of suitable land for housing, leading to land management difficulties that obstruct the development of essential economic and social infrastructure crucial for the city's growth. Aging infrastructure, along with theft and vandalism, persist as significant challenges and are primary factors contributing to incidents of water losses and sewage spills, posing potential threats to the environment. Moreover, these issues have the potential to constrain industrial development

in certain catchment zones. The overarching diagnostic issues affecting Buffalo City residents can be summarised as follows:

- **Poverty:** In 2022, there were 536 000 people living in poverty, using the upper poverty line definition, across BCMM – this is 24,56% higher than the 430 000 in 2012. The percentage of people living in poverty has increased from 53,27% in 2012 to 58,90% in 2022, which indicates an increase of 5,63 percentage points (Census, 2022).
- **Unemployment:** Increasing structural unemployment, coupled with over 50% youth unemployment, poses significant challenges for BCMM. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation, with an estimated loss of around 15 000 jobs in the municipality. This loss predominantly stems from the closure of small businesses in sectors such as tourism and leisure, construction, manufacturing, financial services, and trade (South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443, 2024).
- **Growth constraints:** The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated an existing economic crisis, further straining an already highly constrained fiscal space worsened by a series of ratings downgrades. Crime, grime, and non-enforcement of by-laws are also major investment constraints.



In 2022, the unemployment rate in BCMM (based on the official definition of unemployment) was 45,28%, which is an increase of 18,8 percentage points. The unemployment rate in BCMM is higher than that of EC. The unemployment rate for South Africa was 33,73% in 2022, which is an increase of 8,58 percentage points from 25,15% in 2012.

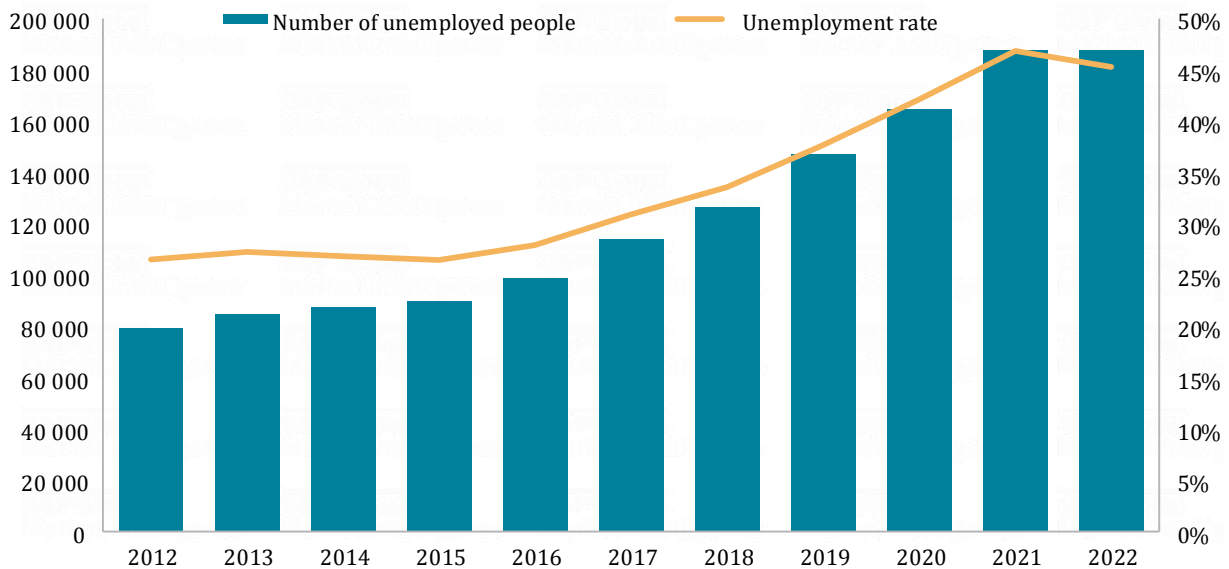


Figure 6:
 Unemployment and unemployment rate (official definition) – BCMM, 2012 – 2022
 (number percentage)

Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443 (2024)
 Data compiled on 15 Jan 2024. © 2024 S&P Global.

When comparing unemployment rates among regions within BCMM, the Mdantsane, and Chalumna sub-municipal region has indicated the highest unemployment rate of 47,3%, which has increased from 28,8% in 2012. This could be attributed to its predominantly rural nature with limited economic activity. Conversely, the East London sub-municipal region had the lowest unemployment rate of 43,2% in 2022, which increased from 24,0% in 2012. This region is largely urban, boasting several economic opportunities.





BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

6.

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA



6. GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

BCMM takes guidance from several international, national, and local frameworks that highlight the challenges of the twenty-first century and emphasise the need for strategies and plans for transformation, building resilience, and improving the quality of life of communities through sustainable development practices.

The diagram below highlights some of the frameworks:

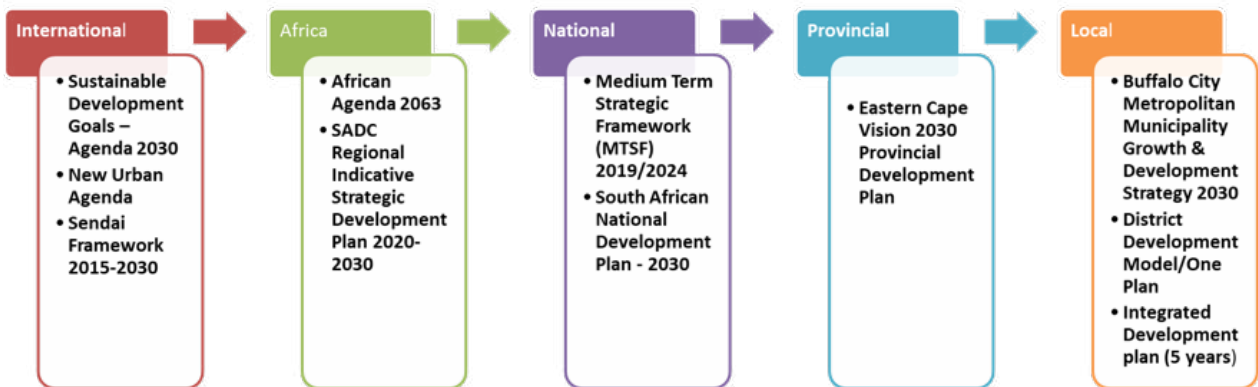


Figure 7:
The governance and institutional frameworks guiding sustainable development



6.1 INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

6.1.1 The United Nations SDGs – Agenda 2030

The 17 SDGs adopted by the UN in 2015 (UNDP, 2015), which aim to transform the world, align with many of south Africa’s national goals at the country level. However, to translate these goals into transformative economic, social, and environmental action, efforts must be made at the local level. The most significant impact, collectively achieved by all levels of government, civil society, business, and other stakeholders, is demonstrated by tangible improvements on the ground and meaningful changes in people’s lives for the better.

Strategic alignment with the SDGs presents an opportunity to address broader global issues at the local level, while also enabling access to and sharing of resources, enhancing capacity, and exchanging experiences and best practices. This approach can significantly improve the effectiveness and efficiency of municipalities in responding to developmental challenges. It is crucial to emphasise frameworks that acknowledge the pivotal role of local governments in facilitating and achieving commitments and goals. Decentralised cooperation emerges as a critical avenue to bolster the role of cities in localising global agendas and capitalising on global opportunities.

Localising both national and internationally agreed development goals is crucial for ensuring that these goals resonate with local needs, norms, and values. This localisation process ensures that the goals are relevant and meaningful to all segments of society.

South Africa, as a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is obligated to fulfil its international commitments by aligning its programmes and strategies with the SDGs. It is imperative that the principles of the 2030 Agenda, particularly the strategic intent to “Leave No One Behind”, are embraced in all endeavours.

On the international level, South Africa adopts international models and best practices that align with its national priorities and the NDP.



6.1.2 The New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF)

The significance of the local level was underscored with the adoption of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016. Subsequently, it was endorsed by the UN General Assembly. The NUA delineates five distinct Action Areas, namely:

- National Urban Policy,
- Urban Legislation – rules and regulations,
- Urban Planning and Design,
- Urban Economy and Municipal Finance, and
- Planned City Extensions / Planned urban renewals.

It recognises the need for meaningful cooperation across all spheres and a shared vision of “cities for all”, reflecting a global commitment to sustainable urban development at every level (global, national, provincial, regional, and local). This alignment corresponds to SDG 11: ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’.

The IUDF, which is South Africa’s urban policy Department of Local Government (DCOG, 2016), articulates how South Africa will transform urban areas to overcome both historical and prevailing challenges, while working together to ensure more integrated, sustainable, and equitable human settlements, as envisioned in the NDP. The framework

aims to steer urban growth towards a sustainable model of compact, connected, and coordinated towns and cities. It provides a roadmap to implement the NDP’s vision for spatial transformation – creating liveable, inclusive, and resilient towns and cities while reversing the apartheid spatial legacy.

The NUA, therefore, represents a shared vision for a better and more sustainable future and needs to be well-planned and well-managed to ensure integrated sustainable development in South Africa. It requires a sustained approach to intergovernmental relations.

6.1.3 The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015 – 2030

The increase in natural disasters over the last decade shows the need for more planning and preparedness to reduce loss of life or injury, minimise damage to infrastructure, build resilience, and respond to disasters. The Sendai Framework focuses on adopting measures that address the three dimensions of disaster risk: exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity, and characteristics of hazards. Its goal is to prevent the creation of new risk, reduce existing risk, and increase resilience. The Framework aims to achieve a significant reduction in disaster risk and losses in terms of lives, livelihoods, health, and the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of individuals, businesses, communities, and countries over the next 15 years (2015–2030).



The Sendai Framework includes four priorities:

- Understanding disaster risk.
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Therefore, managing and responding to disasters is equally the responsibility of the Municipality as it is for all communities and stakeholders within the city.

The Sendai Framework emphasises the consideration of climate risks and preparedness in relation to these risks, thereby aligning with SDG: 13: ‘Climate Action’.

The BCMM’s Disaster Management Strategy and Climate Change Strategy are both informed by the Sendai Framework.

6.1.3 Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want

South Africa plays an active and meaningful role in other countries in Africa and is seen as the gateway to the African continent. Africa’s broader challenges have a direct impact on the country, and South Africa’s future is intricately linked to the future of Africa. Therefore, the country has a vested interest in the prosperity of the continent.

Agenda 2063, according to the AU (2015), is Africa’s master plan for transforming the continent into a global powerhouse of the future. It is the continent’s strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development. It is a pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress, and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.

The realisation of Agenda 2063 came from African leaders recognising the need to refocus and reprioritise Africa’s agenda. Instead of solely focusing on the struggle against apartheid and the attainment of political independence, the continent needed to prioritise inclusive social and economic development, continental and regional integration, democratic governance, and peace and security, among other issues. This was aimed at repositioning Africa to become a dominant player in the global arena.

Agenda 2063 is the concrete manifestation of how the continent intends to achieve this vision within a 50-year period from 2013 to 2063. The key priorities in Agenda 2063, which was initiated well before the MDGs and the SDGs, are directly aligned and have synergies in relation to war and conflict in several countries in the world. These conflicts threaten not only Africa’s peace and security but also the world at large. This is aligned with SDG 16: ‘Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions’. Therefore, collective action is needed to bring about peace and stability to ensure sustainability.

6.1.3 Southern African Development Community – Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020–2030

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020–2030) and SADC Vision 2050 are two strategic plans aimed at further deepening regional integration and fostering development in Southern Africa, as per SADC’s objectives. These plans were approved by the 40th Ordinary SADC Summit held in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2020.

RISDP 2020–2030 and Vision 2050 cover six strategic priority areas:

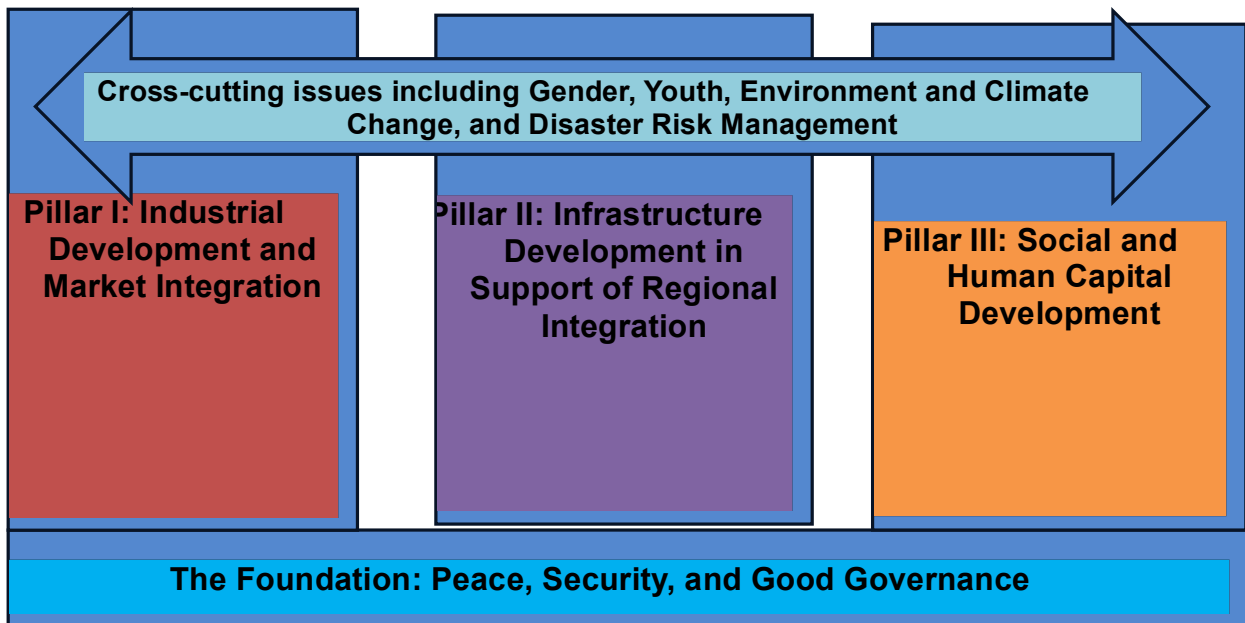


Figure 8: Six (6) priorities of SADC

In each of these priority areas, the RISDP 2020–2030 and Vision 2050 provide strategic guidance in the form of actions, interventions, targets, and timelines. If implemented and met, these measures will further deepen integration in SADC. The overarching goal of both the RISDP 2020–2030 and Vision 2050 is to create a peaceful, inclusive, competitive, middle- to high-income industrialised region by the year 2050, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic well-being, justice, and freedom. This vision aligns with the SDGs and reflects a commitment to achieving sustainable development outcomes by 2050 (RISDP, 2020–2030; Vision, 2050).



6.2 SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

6.2.1 The South African National Development Plan – 2030

The South African NDP aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030. According to the NDP, South Africa can achieve these goals by harnessing the energies of its people, fostering an inclusive economy, building capabilities, enhancing the capacity of the state, and promoting leadership and partnerships throughout society. The NDP prioritises the elimination of poverty, the reduction of inequality, and the growth of an inclusive economy. The NDP goals are aligned with the SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063, and they are integrated into government planning systems and processes at the national, provincial, and local levels.

The NDP places emphasis on the long-term plans of departments and their alignment, ensuring consistency and coherence, engaging all sectors to understand and contribute to the implementation of the plan, and identifying obstacles that could hinder progress and impede the fulfilment of one's role. The plan also aims to shape budget allocation, thereby encouraging all spheres of government to prioritise projects and address the improvement in the quality of public services, thus enabling transformation. It also requires provinces to focus on identifying and

overcoming obstacles to achieving improved outcomes, including the need to strengthen the ability of local government to fulfil its developmental role through improved planning and implementation, informed by evidence-based monitoring and evaluation. Some of the national priorities that have a direct impact on the Municipality, and which need to be prioritised as part of the integrated planning cycle, include:







	a) Economic Growth
	b) Poverty Alleviation
	c) Job creation
	d) Service Delivery
	e) Capacity Building
	f) Systems Support

Figure 9: National priorities



6.2.2 The DDM and One Plan

The DDM is the South African government's approach that aims to tackle the lack of coherence in planning and implementation across all levels of government. It is a spatially integrated single plan that guides and directs a coordinated and collaborative approach to strategic planning, investment expenditure, service delivery, inclusive economic growth, and spatial transformation for the Municipality. The One Plan, which is the output of the DDM, focuses on six transformational areas, namely:

- I. People Development and Demographics
- II. Economic Positioning
- III. Spatial Restructuring and Environmental Sustainability
- IV. Infrastructure Engineering
- V. Integrated Service Provisioning
- VI. Governance and Financial Management

The six transformational areas outlined in the DDM/One Plan are aligned with the SDGs and share similarities in ambitions and expectations with both frameworks.



Figure 10: DDM/One Plan six transformational areas

The challenges addressed by the DDM encompass:

- Silos at both horizontal and vertical levels.
- Enhancing coordination and capacity at the District/Municipality level to bridge the gap between people and government.
- Delivering Integrated Services while strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation and impact at the district and local levels.
- Ensuring inclusive and gender-mainstreamed budgets based on the needs and aspirations of the South African people.
- Maximising impact and aligning resources for disposal.
- Changing the face of rural and urban landscapes by ensuring alignment between urban and rural development.
- Ensuring sustainable development to eradicate poverty, create employment, and improve people’s quality of life.

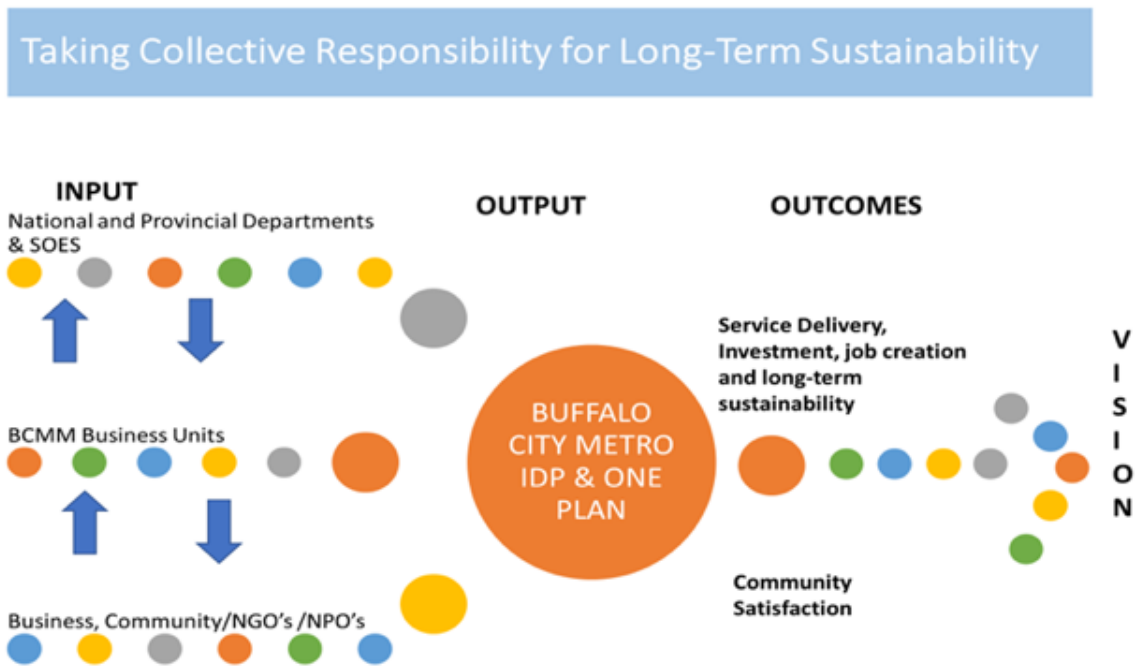


Figure 11: Taking collective responsibility for long-term sustainability



The DDM approach facilitates the development of the One Plan, which is an intergovernmental plan that outlines a long-term strategic framework spanning 25–30 years (including short, medium, and long-term actions) to guide investment and implementation in each of the 44 districts and eight metropolitan municipalities. For the DDM to be successful, it is crucial that the One Plans are collaboratively developed and agreed upon by all three spheres of government.

The BCMM First Generation One Plan was developed in 2021, followed by the Second Generation One Plan in 2022. It is guided by the long-term vision for 2050, which aims to establish:

“A well-governed, connected, green and smart metropolitan port city region built on sustainable physical infrastructure, cohesive partnerships and a diverse people who are safe, healthy and educated”.

All government spheres that invest in and contribute to the development of the BCMM One Plan must ensure that the plans align with national and provincial strategic directives as outlined in the NDP. There is a clear alignment between the DDM and SDGs, as both ideologies emphasise human development, economic growth, transformation, environmental sustainability, and governance.

6.3 PROVINCIAL GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

6.3.1. The EC: Vision 2030 Development Plan

According to the 2030 Provincial Development Plan (PDP) for the EC, a sustainable future hinges on a development approach centred around its people. The plan outlines five interconnected goals that have been collectively agreed upon by all stakeholders involved in its development process. These goals are:

- An inclusive, equitable, and growing economy for the province
- An educated, innovative, and empowered citizenry
- A healthy population
- Vibrant, equitably enabled communities
- Capable agents across government and other institutional partners committed to the development of the province

The PDP is viewed as a “social compact” across the state, civil society, and the private sector to hold each other accountable. It exhibits evident synergies with the SDGs, particularly concerning inclusivity, equality, economic growth, quality education, and health. Importantly, it emphasises community involvement in its development processes.



6.4 LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

6.4.1 The Buffalo City MGDS: Vision 2030

BCMM adopted the MGDS as its vision for 2030. The MGDS serves as the fundamental framework guiding BCMM's endeavours to collaborate towards achieving common goals and programmes while fostering business growth and investment. It identifies strategic outcomes essential for the long-term development of the city.

The implementation of the MGDS spans a 15-year timeframe, organised over three IDPs (5 years each) until 2030. Many of the programmes and projects outlined in the MGDS necessitate partnerships between the city and its stakeholders to realise the vision for 2030. The MGDS vision 2030 implementation plans are encapsulated in five strategic outcome areas, aligning closely with the IDP process. Notably, the five pillars of the MGDS exhibit clear alignment with the SDGs, particularly SDG 11.

6.4.2 The BCMM Integrated Development Plan (IDP)

The BCMM IDP serves as a crucial 5-year strategic planning and budgeting instrument for the Municipality, subject to annual review. Mandated by Section 25 of the Municipal Systems Act (MSA), No. 32 of 2000 (RSA, 2000), each municipal council is required to adopt a single, inclusive, and strategic plan for the development of the municipality within a specified timeframe after the start of its elected term. Section 35(1)(a) of the MSA defines the IDP as:

- I. the principal strategic planning instrument which guides and informs all planning and development, and all decisions about planning, management, and development in the municipality.
- II. binds the municipality in the exercise of its executive authority.

Sections 28 and 34 of the MSA stipulate the need for the annual review of the IDP and the development of a process plan to guide this review. The SDGs offer a useful basis for the integration of existing and planned local processes and priorities (i.e., IDP strategic objectives) in line with local government mandates that are encapsulated in the SDG targets and indicators. According to ICLEI Africa (2019:4), "[T]he work of local governments can be mapped to demonstrate existing local contributions to the SDG targets and indicators, identify gaps, and inform context specific future planning and therefore programme design accordingly".







BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

7.

CHANGES AND TRANSFORMATION

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA



7. CHANGES & TRANSFORMATION

Since the dawn of democracy in 1994, South Africa has made notable strides in addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. Key achievements include the provision of free housing, access to education for children from low-income households, improvements in clean water and sanitation, the establishment of social grants, and advancements in healthcare. Notably, South Africa boasts the largest anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment programme globally. According to the Department of Health, approximately 4,7 million people are currently receiving ARV treatment.

Despite significant advancements in social outcomes, South Africa continues to grapple with being the most economically unequal country in the world. The country's VNR presented at the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) highlighted that inequality has escalated over the past decade. This widening gap undermines progress toward SDG 10 and jeopardises the attainment of other SDGs and targets.

Levels of poverty have surged in recent years, exacerbating disparities in poverty and unemployment levels among regions and population groups. Recognising this challenge, the NDP places utmost priority on eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and fostering an inclusive economy by 2030. The goals outlined in the NDP are closely aligned with the SDGs and the AU's Agenda 2063. Moreover, these objectives are fully integrated into government planning systems and processes at the national, provincial, and local levels.

The IDP at the local government level and the One Plan, encompassing all levels of government, were designed to bring about significant changes and transformations in the economic, social, and environmental spheres. However, progress in achieving targets and meeting aspirations has been painstakingly slow for citizens. This slow pace of development has resulted in widespread dissatisfaction among citizens, attributed to delays in service delivery, perceived corruption, an increase in crime and social problems, and limited opportunities for advancement.



According to the Centre for Development and Enterprise in South Africa (Bernstein, 1996), globalisation poses real threats to “business as usual” for cities all over the world while simultaneously providing exciting new opportunities for growth and prosperity.

The process of drafting the SDG VLR Report has underscored a critical realisation: the Municipality cannot afford to continue with business as usual. It necessitates a more transformative strategic approach. This entails delving deeper into understanding its assets at the ward level, determining how to plan more effectively, and maximising the utilisation of these assets through maintenance, upgrades, or new developments. Moreover, it involves prioritising these assets based on their environmental, social, or economic impact and assessing how they address the needs and benefit various stakeholders, including the municipality, communities, private sector, civil society, and vulnerable groups within each ward of the Municipality.







BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

8.

IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA





8. IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

8.1 NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND POLICES

The following national strategies are guided by the Constitution (RSA, 1996), which highlights that one of the primary objective of the Municipality is to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner, and to promote a safe and healthy environment:

- I. The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), No. 107 of 1998 (RSA, 1998b) highlights that any development must be socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable.
- II. The Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 2000 (RSA, 2000) states that municipalities must conduct Integrated Development Planning, establish a Performance Management System, and ensure Human Resource Development.
- III. The Spatial Planning & Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA), No. 16 of 2013 (RSA, 2013a) states that municipalities must ensure economic growth, social inclusion, and efficient land development while minimising impacts on public health, the environment, and natural resources.
- IV. The Disaster Management Act (DMA), No. 57 of 2002 (RSA, 2002), establishes a framework for responding to natural or human-caused disasters as defined in Section 1. It aims to provide a coherent, transparent, and inclusive policy on disaster management suitable for South Africa. According to the DMA, municipalities are mandated to develop Disaster Management Plans and establish structures and mechanisms for dealing with disasters, including anticipating future occurrences. These plans must address regularly occurring disasters, such as flooding in informal settlements and on roads.



8.2 BUFFALO CITY METRO STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

BCMM has a long history of establishing effective platforms for collaborative intergovernmental planning and action. The implementation of the DDM has further fortified these efforts, facilitating enhanced evidence-based and outcomes-oriented planning across all three spheres of government delivering services within the municipal domain. As a result, the collaborative efforts of the three spheres have culminated in the design of the One Plan, which identifies several integrated strategies aimed at achieving the agreed-upon outcomes across all six transformational areas outlined in the DDM. In the VLR Report, we will only highlight the strategies that are paramount to the attainment of the six selected SDGs and their supporting sector plans. These strategies include:



Table 4: One Plan strategies aligned with SDGs and supporting sector plan

One Plan Strategies	BCMM Sector Plans / Strategies
Goal 1: No Poverty	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 3: Ensure Social Security • Strategy 9: Equality • Strategy 27: Accelerate universal access to services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child and Youth Development Strategy • BCMM Disability Strategy • BCMM AIDS Council Implementation Plan HIV, TB and STIs • Disaster Risk Management Policy Framework
Goal 5: Gender Equality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 9: Equality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Equity Plan • Workplace Skills Plan • BCMM Disability Strategy: 2016 • BCMM Metro AIDS Council Implementation Plan HIV, TB and STIs: 2017 • Reviewed Guidelines for BCMM’s Vulnerable Groups Forums: Gender, Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons: 2017 • Reviewed Child and Youth Development Strategy: 2017 • Reviewed BCMM Youth Council Constitution and Code of Conduct: 2019 • BCMM Public Participation Strategy • BCMM Framework for the Implementation of Ward Allocation for Operating Projects
Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 21: Coordinate regional infrastructure • Strategy 23: Secure bulk water supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Services Development Plan • Water and Sewerage Master Plans



One Plan Strategies	BCMM Sector Plans / Strategies
Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 15: Lead Spatial Reform & Growth • Strategy 17: Develop Public Transport System • Strategy 18: Promote Rural Development • Strategy 19: Direct land development • Strategy 20: Coordinate infrastructure investment • Strategy 25: Manage catalytic development zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Development Framework (SDF) • Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements Plan (ISHSP) • Integrated Public Transport Network • Comprehensive Integrated Transport Plan • Non-Motorised Transport Plan • Traffic Safety Plan • Arterial Road Network Development Plan • Integrated Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy • Pavement Management System
Goal 13:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Pollution Policy 	Climate Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Pollution Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Strategy
Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 28: Institutionalise the IGR system • Strategy 29: Promote social compacts • Strategy 30: Enhance social capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperative Development Strategy • Trade and Investment Strategy • International Relations Framework • IGR Framework





BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

9.

BCMM SDG INITIATIVES AND MAIN FINDINGS

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

9. BCMM SDG INITIATIVES AND MAIN FINDINGS

BCMM is undertaking its first voluntary review. This initiative aims to empower the municipality to establish baseline data in the short term and make substantial contributions to long-term sustainability through the localisation of the SDGs. Over the past five years, the municipality has diligently measured its efforts toward sustainability through various projects, programmes, and interventions, with the overarching goal of enhancing the quality of life for local citizens and directly contributing to the achievement of Agenda 2030. For this VLR Report, BCMM has identified six out of the 17 SDGs to focus on, namely:







Sustainable Development Goal	Intention
	SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
	SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
	SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
	SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable
	SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
	SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Figure 12: SDGs identified for BCMM VLR reporting




For BCMM, SDG 11: “Building a Sustainable City and Sustainable Communities”, is the primary goal of all strategic plans and frameworks of the Municipality. The aim is to improve the quality of life in the city, both now and for future generations. Therefore, all actions taken now need to have deliberate and conscientious intent and make strategic interventions to transform the city, its environments, and the economy with long-term sustainability in mind.

According to the UN, “Building sustainable communities requires strategies that create a sense of place, personal responsibility, and social well-being that together foster lasting improvements in quality of life”. Furthermore, making cities sustainable means creating career and business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building resilient societies and economies. It involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in participatory and inclusive ways.

The detailed assessment of progress towards SDG achievement is as follows:

9.1. GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

	SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
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South Africa is widely recognised as one of the most unequal countries globally. The Inequality Trends in South Africa report released by StatsSA (2023) reveals a per-capita expenditure Gini coefficient of 0,67 in 2006, which decreased to 0.65 by 2015. Additionally, according to the Palma ratio, in 2006, the top 10% of the population spent 8,6 times more than the bottom 40%. This ratio decreased to 7,9 by 2015. These figures indicate that overall inequality, measured at a national level, has declined between 2006 and 2015.

According to StatsSA (2023), the unemployment rate in South Africa increased to 32,9% of the labour force in the first quarter of 2023, slightly up from 32,7%.

The data indicates that the number of employed workers increased by 258 000 to 16,2 million in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. However, there was also an increase of 179 000 more people who were unemployed. Consequently, there are now a total of 7,9 million people without jobs in South Africa, up from 7,8 million in the last quarter.

According to Statista (2024), the unemployment rate in South Africa remains consistently higher among women than men. Specifically, it reached approximately 35,7% of the total labour force during the second quarter of 2023.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated job losses and unemployment, leading to a rise in poverty levels. Consequently, more individuals are relying on social grants for support, and there has been an increase in crime and vandalism. Moreover, a growing number of people are applying for social relief from the state to alleviate financial hardships caused by the pandemic.

As of 2023, StatsSA has indicated that an individual living in South Africa with a monthly income of less than ZAR1 058 (roughly USD\$55, 23) was considered poor. Approximately 55,5% of the population, totalling 30,3 million people, is living below the national upper poverty line, which is approximately ZAR992. Additionally, a total of 13,8 million people, constituting 25% of the population, are experiencing food poverty.



In the South African context, an individual is classified as poor when their level of development is low, and they have limited opportunities for growth. This situation often traps them into a cycle of poverty, known as the poverty trap, characterised by:

- Low economic growth
- Low income
- Low saving
- Low investment
- Low level of education and health care
- Low levels of human capital
- Low productivity

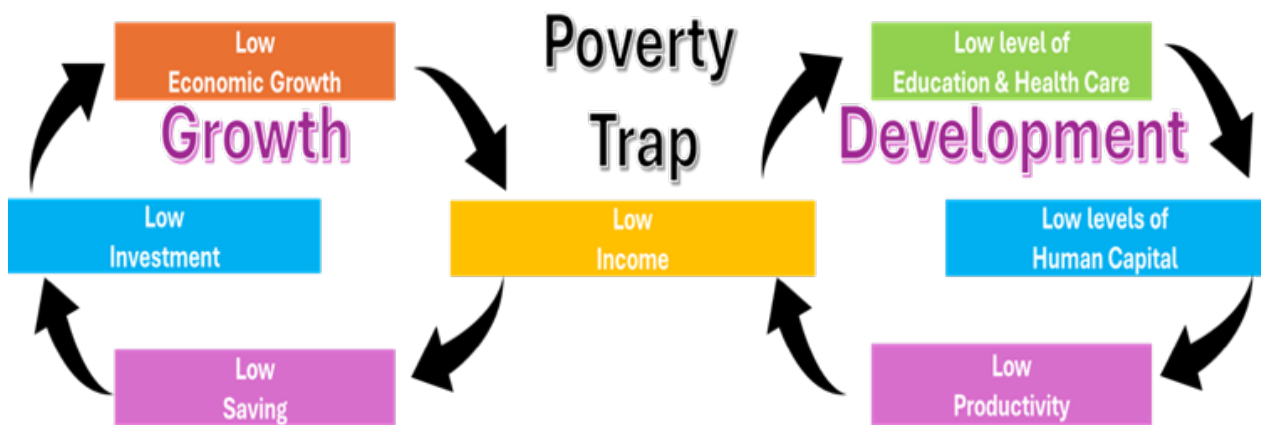


Figure 13: The poverty cycle and trap

Chen (2023) indicates that a “poverty trap is created when an economic system requires a significant amount of capital to escape poverty. When individuals lack this capital, they may also find it difficult to acquire it, creating a self-reinforcing cycle of poverty”. With low income levels, individuals face challenges in accessing education, healthcare, and saving and investing resources, making it difficult to escape poverty and potentially leading to intergenerational poverty.

In pursuing SDG 1, BCMM aligns with the vision of fostering “the city as a place thriving with robust civic spirit”, a vision shared by other government spheres and external stakeholders. This objective will be advanced by promoting collaboration among diverse communities to collectively address common challenges, while also valuing cosmopolitanism and preserving a sense of place.

The Municipality’s strategic goal is centred on enhancing the quality of life and overall well-being of all residents within BCMM, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Table 5: SDG Target 1.1

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 1.1	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1,25 a day
	Indicator 1.1.1: Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

RSA Domesticated Indicator
Proportion of households living in poverty

In 2022, BCMM had 536 000 people living in poverty, as defined by the upper poverty line. This figure represents a 24,56% increase from the 430 000 individuals reported in 2012. Additionally, the percentage of people living in poverty rose from 53,27% in 2012 to 58,90% in 2022, indicating an increase of 5,63 percentage points over the decade.

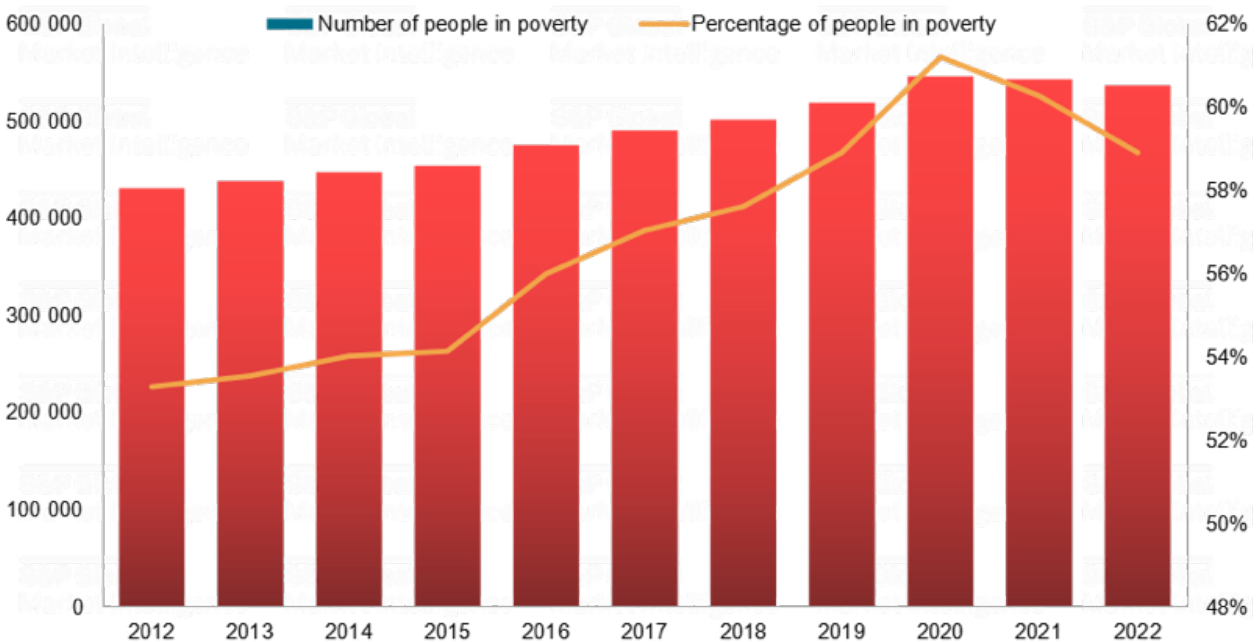


Figure 14: Number and percentage of people living in poverty in Buffalo City



The Census 2022 (StatsSA, 2022a) report identified that the African population still had a high percentage of people living in poverty, totalling 64,7% based on the upper poverty line definition. The proportion of the Coloured population living in poverty decreased by 11,6 percentage points, from 35,68% in 2012 to 39,85% in 2022. In 2022, 16,41% of the Asian population lived in poverty, compared to 4,80% in 2012, indicating an increase in poverty levels. Both the African and White population groups saw a decrease in the percentage of people living in poverty, with decreases of 5,18 and 4,17 percentage points, respectively.

In terms of the percentage of people living in poverty in each region within BCMM, the Qonce sub-municipal region had the highest percentage at 63.5%. The lowest percentage of people living in poverty was observed in the Macleantown, Sandisiwe sub-municipal region, with a total of 54,0% living in poverty.

The people of BCMM, like many other parts of our country, are still experiencing concerning levels of poverty. The EC Department of Health recently reported that between August 2022 and September 2023, 1 722 children under the age of five in the province were newly diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition. Of these children, 114 died, with 101 suffering from severe acute malnutrition and 13 from moderate malnutrition, which is a serious concern for the province. The EC Provincial Government has taken this matter seriously and highlighted it in the Premier’s 2024 State of the Province Address, allocating resources to reduce this statistic.

Table 6: SDG Target 1.2

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 1.2	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
	Indicator 1.2.1: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

Table 7: Indicator 1.2.1A

RSA Domesticated Indicator
1.2.1A: Number of social grants



I. Social Grants

The individual social grant receipts were reported to be the highest in BCMM (37,7%) compared to other metropolitan cities in the country (StatSA, 2022a).

According to the Census 2022, a similar pattern is evident for households at the metropolitan level. Receipt of one or more social grants was most common for households in Mangaung (56,9%) and BCMM (55,6%) and least common in Cape Town (33,9%) and Johannesburg (35,1%). (StatSA, 2022a).

Salaries and wages were reported as the main source of income in BCMM, accounting for 47,6% (StatSA, 2022a).

II. Indigent Management and Support System

BCMM offers a social package that assists households that are poor or face other circumstances that limit their ability to pay for services. In order to receive these free services, households are required to register according to the Municipality's Indigent Policy.

However, it should be noted that while this is a social goal, it is also an indicator that the institution is not achieving its overall strategic direction. The institution is striving for economic growth and job creation, which contradicts this focus area. The cost of the social package for registered indigent households is largely financed by the national government through the local government equitable

share received according to the annual Division of Revenue Act (DORA), No. 2 of 2013 (RSA, 2013b).

The number of indigent households requiring free basic services has increased by at least 10%, clearly demonstrating the impact of poverty on many households (StatSA, 2022).

After the 2022/2023 external audit by the Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA), the Municipality reported that 6,9% of its operating budget was spent on free basic services for indigent households, compared to 6,6% in the previous year (2021/2022). The percentage of total residential electricity provision allocated as Free Basic Electricity (FBE) was reported as 15,22%, compared to the previous year's reported 10,11%.

The Indigent Management Unit consists of dedicated employees who manage and administer the indigent register to ensure the provision of free basic services to qualifying consumers.

BCMM is establishing an Indigent Steering Committee with the assistance of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Members of the Mayoral Committee, and the Public Participation Unit within BCMM. The committee will include Ward Committee members, Public Participation Facilitators, elderly persons, and a Finance official. The purpose of the committee is to review and finalise received applications.



The following table provides a breakdown of the current and proposed total poor relief package per indigent household:

Table 8: BCMM Social welfare package per indigent household

SOCIAL WELFARE PACKAGE							
	Total Per	Tariff	Total Per	Tariff	Total Per	Tariff	Total Per
	Household	%	Household	%	Household	%	Household
	2022/23	Increase	2023/24	Increase	2024/25	Increase	2025/26
Rates	142,41	0,00%	142,41	4,90%	149,39	4,70%	156,41
Refuse	300,87	5,30%	316,82	4,90%	332,34	4,70%	347,96
Sewerage	106,93	5,30%	112,59	4,90%	118,11	4,70%	123,66
Fire Levy	62,61	5,30%	65,93	4,90%	69,16	4,70%	72,41
Total Monthly Subsidy	612,82		637,75		669,00		700,44
Electricity – 50 kwh p.m.	92,57	15,10%	106,55	12,74%	120,13	12,74%	135,43
Water – 6 kl p.m.	118,77	9,86%	130,49	9,86%	143,35	9,86%	157,49
Total Poor Relief	824,16	6,14%	874,79	6,59%	932,48	6,53%	993,36

• **Property Rates:**

No tariff increase is to be applied in the 2023/24 financial year due to the implementation of a new general valuation roll. Tariff increases of 4,9% and 4,7% are projected for the 2024/25 and 2025/2026 financial years, respectively.

The Municipality has successfully conducted a General Valuation exercise in accordance with the Municipal Property Rates Act, No. 6 of 2004 (RSA 2004), and the new values have been implemented as of 01 July 2023. Ratepayers are required to inspect and object to any particulars appearing on the valuation roll. The rates levied per individual property will depend on its value compared with the valuation of all rateable properties in the municipal area. Rebates and concessions are granted to certain categories of property usage and/or property owners. The total number of properties on the valuation roll is 164 712.

Accordingly, the rates levied per individual property will depend on that property's value compared with the valuation of all the rateable properties in the municipal area. Rebates and concessions are granted to certain categories of property usage and/or property owners. The property valuation roll is published on the BCMM website at www.buffalocity.gov.za.



In BCMM, the number of households that benefited from the indigent support system can be summarised as follows:

Table 9: Number of Buffalo City consumer units receiving free basic services

	Grand Total	Number of Households Earning less than R4,020 per month								
		Total	Free Basic Water		Free Basic Sanitation		Free Basic Electricity		Free Basic Refuse	
			Access	%	Access	%	Access	%	Access	%
2020/21	50 430	50 430	45 849	100%	40 718	100%	47 915	100%	44 934	100%
2021/22	48 039	48 039	43 798	100%	40 738	100%	47 459	100%	43 453	100%
2022/23	49 834	49 834	49 627	100%	43 553	100%	39 376	100%	46 029	200%

Table 10: Indicator 1.2.2

SDG Indicator No	Indicator
Indicator 1.2.2	Proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

- **Dependency Ratio**

The dependency ratio relates to the number of children (0–14 years old) and older persons (65 years or over) compared to the working-age population (15–64 years old). In the case of the BCMM area, the dependency ratio dropped by 0,1% from 48,4% in 2011 to 48,3% in 2022. This still indicates a high percentage of the population is dependent on the government and the productive population. This issue needs to be addressed through sound policies, interventions, creating an enabling environment for investment and job creation, and social programmes to foster a self-reliant citizenry.

Table 11: SDG Target 1.4

SDG Target	Indicator
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
	Indicator 1.4.1: Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services



Table 12: Indicator 1.4.1 D

RSA Domesticated Indicator 1.4.1. D
Proportion of population living in households with access to improved sanitation facilities

The following table illustrates the number of domestic and non-domestic consumers receiving selected services in the BCMM region:

Table 13: Number of domestic and non-domestic consumers receiving selected services in Buffalo City

Water		Electricity		Sewerage and Sanitation		Solid Waste Management	
2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
258 456	260 919	163702	166 190	240 371	245 143	128 046	149 551

Between 2019 and 2020, the number of consumers who have access to sewerage and sanitation services has grown from 240 371 (2019) to 245 143 (2020). Whilst access to all services had grown, the most notable growth happened in the provision of access to Solid Waste Management, recording an increase of 21 505 domestic and non-domestic consumers from 2019 to 2020. More recent data on the above will be available from StatsSA only after the BCMM VLR Report is tabled. Therefore, the new data will form part of the next VLR Report.

Table 14: Indicator 1.5.4

SDG Indicator No	Indicator
Indicator 1.5.4	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies.



The BCMM Council adopted the Disaster Risk Management Policy Framework (DRMPF) on 26 February 2014. The DRMPF was reviewed during 2019/20. Disasters occur because of a complex interrelationship of social, economic, spatial, structural, and environmental vulnerabilities that expose people, their livelihoods, and the environment to the hazards generated by trigger events and result in widespread human, economic, and environmental losses. The Disaster Management Amendment Act, No. 16 of 2015 (RSA, 2015), requires sector departments to plan and budget for disaster management in their areas of responsibility. This must include climate change and vulnerable groups.

Some of the challenges include the following:

- There are still challenges with practicing disaster management in an integrated and coordinated, multisectoral, risk-focused manner in BCMM.
- The need to incorporate the Sendai Framework and SDGs into the management of disaster risk in the Municipality.
- Unpreparedness for epidemics, such as Covid-19.
- Fires – Informal settlements, industrial, and vegetation.
- A severe drought experienced in 2019–2020.
- The region is prone towards severe storms and flooding.
- 230 rural settlements that are scattered and become almost inaccessible during severe storms and flooding.

- There are 154 informal settlements that increase the risk for the loss of life during disasters.
- Poverty.
- Climate change is posing more threats and risks, such as rising sea levels, heatwaves, and flooding.

III. Institutionalisation of the Disaster Management function

In response to Council priorities, the municipality has established and launched critical IGR structures for disaster management. The Disaster Management Advisory Forum was launched on 09 March 2023, while the Municipal Interdepartmental Disaster Risk Management Committee was launched on 11 May 2023.

The Disaster Management Centre has also intensified its efforts to reduce risk by conducting community education and awareness programmes in the following wards: Ward 2 – Duncan Village; Ward 5 – Scenery Park; Ward 11 – Mdantsane; and Ward 46 – Ndevana.

To institutionalise and mainstream the disaster management function, the Municipality has formally appointed the Head of the Disaster Management Centre, an Assistant Manager for Disaster Operations, and two Disaster Management Officers. Additionally, a GIS Data Custodian Intern will soon start a two-year contract.



IV. Establishment of a New Disaster Management Centre

In alignment with Council priorities, the Municipality has allocated a budget of R22,5 million from its own funding over the Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) period for the construction of a new disaster management centre. This centre will comply with the National Disaster Management Centre Infrastructural Requirements. Currently, the municipality is actively engaged in identifying a suitable site for the establishment of the new centre.

Table 15: SDG Target 1.a

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 1.a	Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
	Indicator 1.a.2: Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health, and social protection)

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 1.a	Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional, and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions
	Indicator 1.b.1: Pro-poor public social spending



V. Housing

The Municipality's National Housing Needs Register (NHNR) currently encompasses approximately 112 179 potential housing beneficiaries, requiring an estimated budget of R29 billion for the construction of houses. It is important to highlight that the housing backlog is a dynamic figure due to factors such as rapid urbanisation and the presence of illegal immigrants within South African cities.

The Municipality adopted a 5-year Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement Plan (ISHSP) in June 2019, which outlines the need to identify, acquire, plan, and survey 150 hectares (ha) of suitable, developable, and well-located land. This initiative aims to address the dynamic housing backlog, estimated at approximately 112 179 potential beneficiaries in the NHNR. It should be noted that 150 hectares of land will yield \pm 5 000 Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)/Breaking New Ground (BNG) houses. The Municipality's ISHSP is scheduled for review by July 2024. This review will provide an opportunity for thorough reflection on the evolving landscape of human settlement policies.

BCMM service delivery/funding agreements with the Eastern Cape Department of Human Settlements and Housing Development Agency are starting to show positive results as more than 1 000 households are expected to receive house keys before the end of June 2024. Initially, with an estimated four people per household, the delivery of 1 241 houses will mean that 6 205

people will be moved from unbearable living conditions in informal settlements around BCMM to much more decent and secure housing. This will be followed by the handing over of title deeds for security of tenure. Additionally, it is anticipated that 125 houses will be rectified during the 2023/24 financial year by the Provincial Department of Human Settlements BCMM Regional Office.

The bid specifications for public bidding for unblocking of Potsdam Ikwezi Block 1 of 656 Units and CNIP (Ciskei National Independent Party) Victims housing projects of 278 units have been completed. There is now a clear plan of action for housing delivery and associated infrastructure for approximately 5 528 units in the next three financial years, starting from 2023/24 to 2025/26. Based on an estimate of four people per household, the construction of these houses will provide decent shelter to approximately 22 112 people in various areas across the Municipality.



VI. Buffalo City Metro Bursary Fund

BCMM awards bursaries to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Fund is an annual self-funded programme that demonstrates the Municipality's commitment to investing in the city's youth by providing financial assistance to deserving students studying in designated scarce skills fields such as Engineering, Finance, Planning, and Scientific Services. The identification of relevant scarce skills is guided by the Directorate of Corporate Services and approved by Council.

Most of the past recipients of the BCMM Mayoral Bursary Fund are employed within the BCMM region and throughout the country in various sectors. The bursary fund is intended to support current or prospective students and can be used to cover tuition and registration

fees, prescribed books, study materials, meals, and accommodation for each academic year. The allocated budget for the 2023/24 financial year is R4,9 million.

The Municipality has specific criteria for applicants. Specifically, a student applicant must be a bona fide resident of BCMM and a South African citizen. The selection criteria are strictly based on academic merit, and successful applicants can renew their bursaries annually depending on their academic performance in the previous year. The bursary fund primarily supports underprivileged individuals and targets young people aged 14 to 35.

Furthermore, the Municipality is dedicated to promoting employment equity, including persons with disabilities. It encourages students with disabilities to apply to the Bursary Fund.



Plate 3: Mayoral Bursary Fund Awards for recipients



The programme has a profound impact on students and families from vulnerable communities, empowering students who possess the potential but lack the resources to pursue their studies. This Fund serves as a catalyst for transforming the lives of young people. In addition to the Bursary Fund, beneficiaries are afforded opportunities to engage in experiential learning placements and internships within the Municipality. It is important to note that participation in these opportunities does not create an expectation of employment within the Municipality for the beneficiaries.

Table 16: Number of bursaries awarded from 2019 – 2023 by BCMM

Year	No. of Female Students	No. of Male Students	Total Number of Bursaries Awarded	Budget
2019	21	29	50	3m
2020	28	33	61	3m
2021	26	24	50	3m
2022	30	28	58	4,8m
2023	32	32	64	4,9m

In the 2023 academic year, sixty-four (64) beneficiaries were awarded the Bursary Fund. Since its inception in 2008, the Bursary Fund has produced 100 graduates who are currently employed in various sectors across the country. Among them, three (3) graduates hold permanent positions, while two (2) are temporary employees, and 14 serve as interns within the Municipality. The BCMM Mayoral Bursary Fund has facilitated the attainment of a diverse range of academic qualifications, including doctorates with Ph.Ds in Animal Science, Chartered Accountancy, Engineering, Architecture, and Science.

VII. Grant-in-Aid

BCMM awards Grants-In-Aid to non-political and non-profit-making organisations that provide support to communities from a social perspective. The following are the categories of organisations eligible to apply:

- i. Educational Institutions/ Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDC)
- ii. Welfare Organisations
- iii. Arts and Culture
- iv. HIV/AIDS Support Groups and Home-Based Care Centres
- v. Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Organisation




Table 17: Number of Grant-in Aids awarded from 2020 – 2023 financial years

Year	Number of Grant-in-Aid Awarded	Total Rand Value of Grant-in-Aid
2020/21	193	R2 418 456,80
2021/22	198	R2 559 284,00
2022/23	236	R2 572 080,00

Interrelated Goals:



9.2. GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

	<p>SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.</p>
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The following SDG ‘Targets’ and ‘Indicators’ have been selected for this review process:

Table 18: SDG Targets and Indicators selected for review process

Target	Indicator
Target 5.1	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
Target 5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
Target 5.5	Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities. For leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic, and public life.
Target 5.b	Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.



a) Introduction

Central to developmental local government is a commitment to work with disadvantaged groups in order to find sustainable solutions to their social, economic, and material challenges and improve their quality of life (RSA, 1998c).

BCMM faces challenges in delivering services and overcoming backlogs in areas such as water, sanitation, housing, roads, infrastructure, and spatial development. These issues further exacerbate the vulnerability of already marginalised groups in terms of their economic participation, access to housing, water, sanitation, electricity, safe neighbourhoods, as well as their overall health and well-being within communities.

Although the Municipality has implemented several policies aimed at reducing vulnerability, such as the Indigent Policy; the Supply Chain Management Policy with its preferential procurement initiatives; the EPWP with its focus on women, youth, and persons with disabilities; the BCMM Bursary Fund Programme; and the Ward Allocation Framework for Operating Projects, the participation and benefit of vulnerable groups in the Municipality's planning and budgeting process is not adequately reflected in the reporting. Moreover, such reporting often lacks disaggregated data based on accurate and verifiable outcomes.

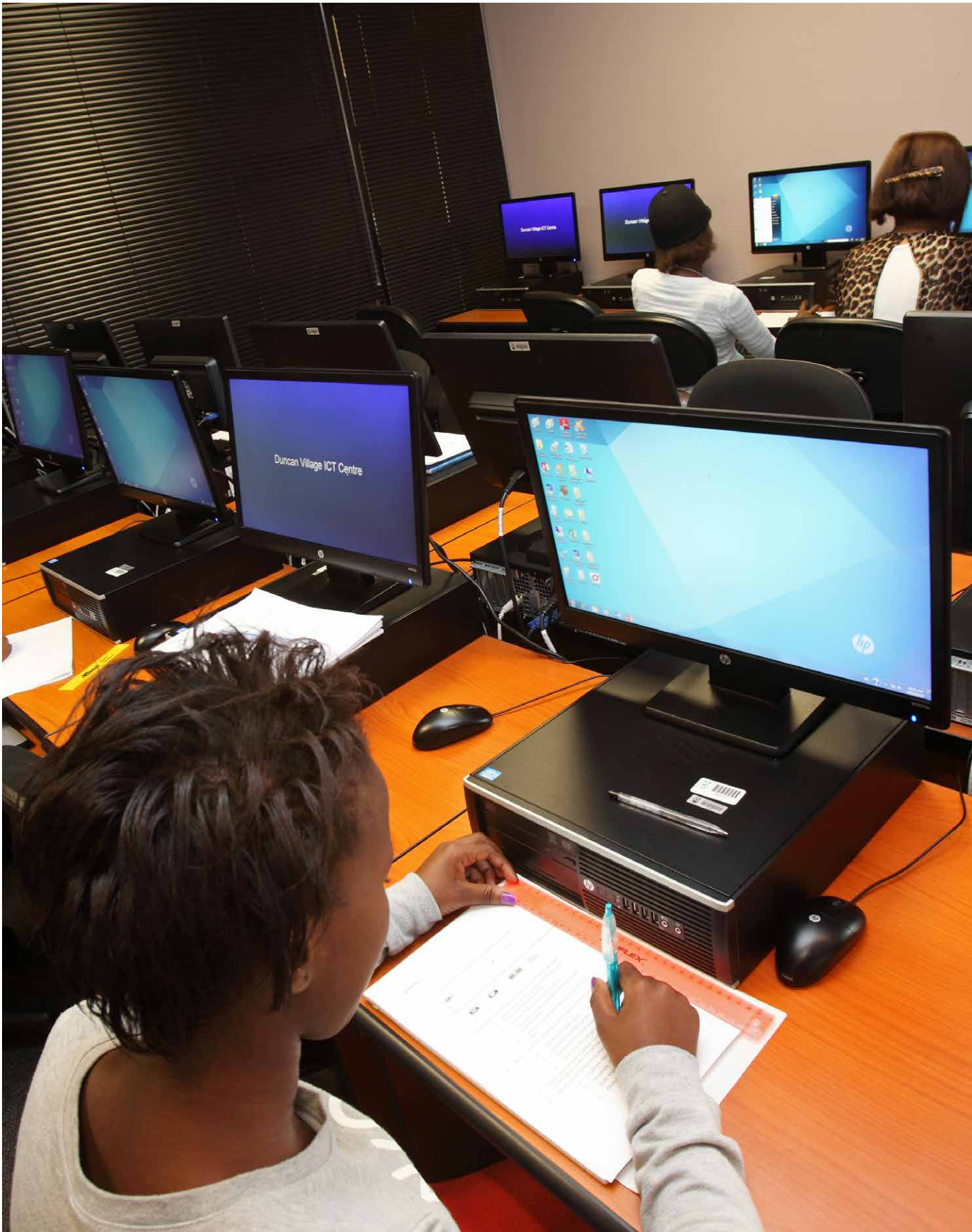
b) Major obstacles and challenges faced in SDG implementation

One of the main obstacles identified during several internal and external strategic planning sessions is the absence of documented institutional mainstreaming of vulnerable groups. There is also a lack of evidence of gender-based or biased budgeting within most spheres of government, including BCMM. This is evident in its Integrated Development Planning Processes and Performance Management System. As a result, the Municipality is unable to report comprehensively and empirically on its efforts to reduce marginalisation of vulnerability within its core business mandate. Additionally, it faces challenges in ensuring the participation and benefit of women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly in the planning, budgeting, and service delivery processes.



The National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide (RSA, 2020:67) underscores the inclusion of mandatory/shared designated groups (local government) indicators with a focus on gender. This is particularly highlighted in Pillar 1, which encompasses Accountability, Coordination, and Leadership. One of the key activities and indicators outlined in this context is the “Integration of NSP priorities and indicators in departmental and municipal Annual Performance Plans...”

The Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), No. 56 of 2003 (RSA, 2003), Circular 88, Addendum 2, dated 17 December 2020, cautions that “reporting on a set of performance indicators is not sufficient to claim an outcome”. All indicators should consist of multiple data elements. The inclusion of disaggregated data enables evidence-based decision-making for enhanced developmental outcomes.





Of particular interest is that the Municipality has BCMM Council-approved documentation which specifically references the mainstreaming of vulnerable groups within the IDP, Budget, Performance Management Processes, which include:

Table 19: List of Council-approved documentation

Documentation on Mainstreaming of Vulnerable Groups	Specific Focus Area and Requirements
BCMM Shared Mainstreamed Designated Groups Vulnerability Reducing Indicators Framework: 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on local government specific indicators and aligning these to the BCMM IDP and BCMM Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP).
BCMM Metro Growth Development Strategy: 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This document drives the strategic direction of BCMM by “Advancing Economy through Development” and, in terms of Section 3 (3.2.1.1) titled ‘Promote Equal Opportunity, Inclusion and Redress’, the following indicators are provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o % compliance with the Employment Equity Act. o % compliance with women-friendly, child-friendly, disability-friendly planning, and o % mainstreaming of the poor in municipal processes.
BCMM Mainstreaming Millennium Development Goals Framework: 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This are also applicable to the SDGs and provides local government-specific shared cross-cutting designated groups’ vulnerability-reducing indicators in the Institutional and Individual Scorecards, SDBIP, and Performance Management System Framework.
BCMM’s Supply Chain Management Policy (2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Policy focuses on economic empowerment initiatives for black woman-owned companies in line with National Treasury Preferential Procurement Regulations (2017), and pre-qualification criteria subcontracting for designated groups, including youth as well as the Contractor Development Programme.
BCMM Child and Youth Development Strategy (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy highlights the Institutionalisation of child and youth development within IDP processes and provides an indicator of the number of funded youth (both male and female) beneficiation programmes reported on by directorates within the Municipality.



Documentation on Mainstreaming of Vulnerable Groups	Specific Focus Area and Requirements
<p>BCMM Framework for The Implementation of Ward Allocation for Operating Projects (2018)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Framework provides guidelines for project selection as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Assisting in the economic empowerment of communities. o Assisting in the empowerment of youth and skills development. o Supporting the poor and vulnerable groups. o Supporting women’s programmes. o Supporting children’s programmes. o Elderly persons’ programmes. • The Framework lacks targets in this regard, but this can be easily remedied.
<p>BCMM Council Priorities (2021 – 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As adopted on 31 May 2022 by the BCMM Council, the following list of priorities falls under Strategic Outcome 1: An Innovative and Productive City, Priority #12: Special Programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Include mandatory / shared / cross-cutting vulnerability-reducing indicators and targets (like those in the MFMA Circular 88), in respect of at least two local government-specific vulnerability-reducing indicators for each Head of Directorate. o Collaborate with key partners to respond comprehensively and integratively to the scourge of gender-based violence.

Mainstreaming the use of disaggregated indicators and data should not detract or divert from the core business, but rather encourage and hold departments accountable for the intended and unintended effects of the core business. It is also important to be able to provide empirical disaggregated data on women, youth, and persons with disabilities and their participation within and benefit from municipal service delivery.

It is imperative to set disaggregated targets and indicators for issues related to gender equality. Furthermore, it is important to use disaggregated indicator targets to measure and evaluate outcomes within specified timeframes. If necessary, remedial actions should be presented. Most importantly, Heads of Directorates need to ensure that designated vulnerable groups, participation, benefit, and vulnerability reduction are accounted for within the Municipality’s core business processes and service delivery mechanisms.



c) Interventions

Table 20: SDG Target 5.1

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 5.1	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
	<p>Indicator 5.1.1</p> <p>Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce, and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex.</p>

While diversity and equality should be embraced and ingrained in society, many stereotypes exist that dictate how boys and girls should look, speak, and behave, in order to conform to perceived gender norms. This influence extends to socialisation in the home, the education system, the workplace, and society as a whole. The National Department of Basic Education recognises that schools play a crucial role in ensuring that children feel safe and accepted, and that they are encouraged and allowed to reach their full potential. Inequalities in schools are perpetuated by racism, xenophobia, gender stereotypes, harmful gender norms, discrimination, and other forms of intolerance towards vulnerable populations, such as the LGBTQI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning) communities. In 2023, the Department of Basic Education circulated draft guidelines for the educational inclusion of individuals with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) in schools.

Anecdotal feedback received from the BCMM-based Sexual Health Empowerment (S.H.E) Feminist Collection of Transgender Women in Africa, a non-profit organisation (NPO), indicates the following human rights violations brought to their attention:

Table 21: Number of human rights violations

Period	No of Human Rights Violations
January 2022 to December 2023	172 cases



These included hate crimes, acts of sexual and physical violence, stigma, as well as generalised and workplace discrimination. These were primarily based on SOGIESC (S.H.E, personal communication, 14 December 2023). The acronym SOGIESC is an umbrella term for people whose sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and/or sex characteristics are deemed by some to be outside culturally perceived “normal”/ mainstream categories.

During Pride Month October 2023, the Municipality hosted an annual Pride March to raise awareness around the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) community. The “+” holds space for the expanding and new understanding of different parts of the very diverse gender and sexual identities. The 2023 Pride March, coordinated by the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) in East London and civil society, raised awareness, promoted tolerance, as well as the need for safe spaces free of discrimination, violence, and intimidation, especially for poor black transgender womxn who face disproportionate risks. The spelling of womxn using an “x” vs an “e” is commonly used by organisations like the GSA and originates from the gender-neutral title of “Mx”, which is used when individuals do not identify as being of a particular gender or for people who simply do not want to be identified by gender.



Plate 4: GSA in East London (2023)

Source: Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) in East London – October 2023



The BCMM’s Industrial Relations Unit initiated a stakeholder engagement during 2023 with regards to the review of its Sexual Harassment Policy. This Policy is in line with the National Government Gazette of 18 February 2022 titled, “Code of Good Practice Elimination Harassment in the Workplace”, which prohibits any discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, ability, and sexual orientation within the workplace (Department of Employment and Labour, 2022).

BCMM updates its Employment Equity Plan annually and reports on the employee profile in terms of gender, ethnicity, and disability as well as targets in this regard. This is submitted to the Department of Labour for monitoring (see Indicator 5.5.2).

Table 22: SDG Target 5.2

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
	<p>Indicator 5.2.1</p> <p>Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.</p>

From the outset, it should be noted that available statistics appear to exclude psychological violence, which is probably the most widespread and difficult to report, often serving as a precursor to intimate partner violence (IPV). “Gaslighting” is a commonly used term to describe this type of psychological abuse and violence, achieved through manipulative tactics. Gaslighters, the perpetrators of this abuse, aim to gain power and control over their intimate partners by distorting reality and causing the victims to doubt their own judgement and intuition. The abusers strive to instil self-doubt and confusion in the minds of the victims, while the continuous psychological onslaught places the Gaslighter in a position of authority and dominance over the victim.

It is estimated that 27% of women and girls aged 15 and older worldwide have experienced physical or sexual IPV. However, in South Africa, this figure is believed to be one in three or even half of the same age group. Underreporting remains a significant challenge. StatsSA (2022b) has documented the status of a range of women’s health indicators in South Africa, broken down by province.



Baseline national data show the following statistics:

Table 23: Statistics – violence type per province

Province	Physical Violence 2016	Physical Violence 2022	Sexual Violence 2016	Sexual Violence 2022
Eastern Cape	24,2%	31,4%	7,7%	6,5%

Since 2016, the EC province has seen an increase in recorded rates of physical violence, rising from 24,2% to 31,4% by 2022. Similarly, instances of sexual violence, while relatively stable, decreased slightly from 7,7% to 6,5% during the same period. The EC province has the highest reported physical violence out of all provinces, while KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) has the lowest at 13,7%. The highest recorded province is North West at 11,5%, and the lowest is KZN at 3,1%. The EC Province is the fifth highest compared to the other six provinces.

Women aged 18–24 years reported a 5,2% incidence of sexual violence, while women aged 65+ years reported 5,6%. The reported incidences peaked for women in the age group 35–44 years at 7% and ages 55–64 years at 6,8% (StatsSA, 2022b).

Unreported or ill-managed sexual assault cases can result in unplanned pregnancy and/or HIV infection.

The 2017 South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behaviour & Communication Survey (Simbayi et al., 2019) documented the burden of HIV prevalence per female age cohort as follows:

Table 24: HIV prevalence per female aged between 25 – 49 years

Age – Female	Percentage %
25 – 29 years	27,5%
30 – 34 years	39,4%
40 – 44 years	35,9%
45 – 49 years	30,3%



Regarding murdered women aged 18 years and older, the South African Police Services (SAPS) crime statistics for the 2022/23 financial year highlight a national increase of 10,6% compared to the past two financial years (SAPS, n.d.).

Attempted murder for the same cohort rose by 17,6%, and Assault with Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) increased by 5,1%. These statistics do not differentiate between IPV and non-partner violence.

Reported rape slightly dropped, and sexual assault decreased by 4,5% within the EC province during the past financial year. The EC province contributed 12,2% to the national reported sexual assaults, ranking as the fourth highest among provinces. In terms of murders, the EC is the third highest province.

While the statistics are not disaggregated by gender or age, the reported trend of murders occurring in public open spaces is cause for concern.

The Municipality is both a tourist destination and a tertiary education hub. Alongside this, the emerging trend of “Pens Down” parties necessitates an integrated approach to ensuring safe public spaces. This includes enforcing bylaws and liquor licences, as well as clamping down on underage drinking.

BCMM INTERVENTIONS

- **Establishment of Community Safety Forums**

The Municipality recently launched the Community Safety Forum, led by the BCMM Public Safety Directorate, as a multi-stakeholder approach. Gender-based violence and femicide (GBV&F) prevention will be a key component of this structure, which will operate in all 50 wards of the Municipality.

- **Women’s Caucus**

The Municipality also hosts a multi-party Women’s Caucus, which regularly conducts awareness and capacity-building initiatives concerning GBV&F, as well as overall women’s empowerment and opportunities.

- **The BCMM Aids Council**

The BCMM AIDS Council is chaired by the Executive Mayor and serves as a platform for various stakeholders who are implementing programmes addressing behaviour change, HIV and AIDS, TB, substance abuse, as well as GBV&F. The AIDS Council facilitates networking, information sharing, and provides feedback on activities.

The BCMM AIDS Council operates in accordance with the National AIDS Council guidelines. Local and



municipal AIDS Councils report to the Provincial AIDS Council, which is chaired by the Premier and convenes quarterly. Stakeholders represented within the Metro AIDS Council include members from various sectors such as the Civil Society Forum Sectors, bumb'INGOMSO, Masimanyane Women's Rights International, Small Project Foundation, Beyond Zero, Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (RHI), Engage – Men's Health, Show Me Your Number, Foundation For Professional Development, Department of Social Development & Department of Health, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Eastern Cape AIDS Council, Men's Sector, Key Populations LGBTQI+, BCMM Women's Caucus, and Chapter 9 Institutions like Commission for Gender Equality and Human Rights Commission. There is a significant focus on including boys and men in behaviour change efforts related to girls and women.

.....

Indicator 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.

.....

Whilst both Indicators (5.2.1 and 5.2.2) refer to physical, sexual, and psychological violence, most surveys when collecting data on sexual violence against women and girls by non-partners tend to limit the information collected to someone being forced into sexual intercourse as well as attempting to force someone to perform a sexual act against her will (SDG Indicator Metadata, 2017).

Abrahams et al. (2019) conducted a study on mortality due to IPV among women in South Africa. The study found that 57% of femicides were committed by a current or ex-intimate partner, while 43% were committed by a non-intimate partner (Abrahams et al., 2019).

Masimanyane Women's Rights International reported that from 2020 to 2023, a total of 160 women, including children, sought refuge at their sheltering facility as victims of GBV&F and crime. The Masimanyane Shelter plays a pivotal role in responding to and addressing violence against GBV&F victims and their children. Survivors receive psychosocial support, training, and assistance with their children, when necessary, to facilitate their reintegration into communities.

During the same 3-year period, the number of victims who reported sexual or physical violence at SAPS facilities, as well as the East London and Mdantsane Courts (where Masimanyane Women's Rights International has offices), was 5 720. These numbers have continued to increase each year.



Contrastingly, the number of individuals affected by sexual or physical violence who received health services at local Thuthuzela Care Centres has seen a decrease over the past two years, dropping from 1 807 to 1 270 cases. This data is drawn from a total of 4 759 cases attended to over the three-year period under review (Masimanyane Women’s Rights International, 2024). These critical services are provided at two Thuthuzela Care Centres within the Municipality, situated at Cecilia Makiwane Hospital and Grey Hospital. These centres, designed as one-stop facilities, play a vital role in South Africa’s anti-rape strategy. Their objectives include reducing secondary victimisation, enhancing conviction rates, and expediting the case finalisation process.

Table 25: SDG Target 5.5

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 5.5	Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities, for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic, and public life.
	Indicator 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments, and (b) local government.

According to StatsSA (2022), South Africa is making commendable progress towards achieving its 50/50 gender parity manifesto within parliamentary structures. However, a desktop review conducted in December 2023 reveals the current breakdown of female representation as follows:

Table 26: Proportion of female representation in South Africa

Level of Government	No. of Public Representatives	No. of Female	Percentage of Women Representation
National Government	29 Ministers	14	48%
	36 Deputy Ministers	17	47%
EC Province	63 Members	30	50%
BCMM	12 Mayoral Committee Members	7	58%

At the national level, both the Speaker and Chief Whip are female. According to the StatsSA Census 2022 report, female representation in 2016 stood at 39,2%.



Moving to the Eastern Cape Provincial Executive (parliament) level, the Speaker is female. The Census 2022 report indicates that in 2016, the Eastern Cape had a 40% female representation (StatsSA, 2022a).

At the local level, both the Executive Mayor and Chief Whip of Council are female.

.....
Indicator 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

Data extracted from the BCMM Employment Equity Plan for the financial year 2023/24 reveals the following proportions of women in managerial positions:

- Among the 10 Top Management posts, 4 out of 10 (40%) are headed by females.
- At the General Manager Level, only 9 out of 35 (26%) positions are occupied by females.

Comparing these statistics against the local Economically Active Population (EAP), the representation of African Females in Top Management aligns with the EAP profile. However, female representation at the General Manager level falls short of the EAP profile of 48,6%. Therefore, it is recommended that female candidates be prioritised for filling General Manager level posts to achieve 40% representation, in line with the EAP. According to StatsSA (2022a), in 2017, the total percentage of women employed at managerial level in South Africa was 32,1%.

Additionally, there are no persons with disclosed disabilities at the senior management level within the Municipality. Out of the 11 employees who have disclosed their disabilities, only three or 27% are women (BCMM Successive Employment Equity Plan: July 2021 to June 2023).

Table 27: SDG Target 5.b

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 5.b	Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology (ICT), to promote the empowerment of women.
	Indicator 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone by sex.



This indicator aims to bolster the utilisation of enabling technology, particularly ICT, to advance women's empowerment. Having access to a mobile phone can be crucial for individuals in dire situations confronting GBV&F, providing victims and survivors with vital information and assistance. For instance, the My SAPS mobile app serves as an exemplar of such a resource. Access to mobile phones and the Internet is deemed essential for breaking the cycle of poverty, not only economically and materially, but also intellectually.

Digital skills and internet access play pivotal roles in fostering development worldwide. As of 2022, global data indicates that 73% of the population aged 10 and over owned a mobile phone, marking an increase from 67% in 2019. Despite this growth, achieving universal mobile phone ownership by 2030 appears unlikely. While citizens in high-income countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Europe, and Northern America typically own mobile phones and enjoy ready access to the internet, in regions like Central and Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, ownership rates stood at 68% for males and 52% for females in 2022, accounting for roughly six out of ten people. (ITU ICT SDG Indicators: 2023).

Of particular interest is the South African context, where data from Census 2022 reveals that female ownership of mobile phones has been consistently higher than that of males, with rates reaching 66.6% and 64% respectively in 2017 (StatsSA, 2022a).

According to StatsSA (2022a), detailed in a report titled "How Covid Changed the Way We Learn", the COVID-19 lockdown of 2022 underscored disparities in access to essential resources required for remote learning. A significant portion of school learners and tertiary students lacked digital assets such as laptops and tablets at home. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic coincided with a surge in GBV&F, particularly during lockdown periods. This situation was further compounded as victims faced challenges accessing mobile phones to report incidents and seek assistance.

A noticeable urban-rural divide persists in households accessing the internet via mobile phones, with municipal households enjoying greater connectivity from home compared to their rural counterparts.

However, ownership of a mobile phone must be accompanied by access to the Internet and digital resources to mitigate inequalities associated with digital connectivity and its impact on achieving gender equality.

The influence of local radio stations should not be underestimated, as demonstrated by Masimanyane Women's Rights International, which reached a total listenership of 4 084 400 during the COVID-19 lockdown. These broadcasts were a response to the epidemic of GBV&F exacerbated by the lockdown and alcohol abuse.



Masimanyane also provided cell phone data to girls and women, enabling them to access social media resources and stay in contact with Masimanyane through dedicated call centers (Masimanyane Women’s Rights International, 2024).


The ongoing VLR and localisation of the SDGs conducted by BCMM will play a crucial role in institutionalising disaggregated indicators and targets. This effort aims to reflect the inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups within municipal planning and budgeting processes, as well as promoting equitable access to basic services such as water, housing, and economic opportunities, etc., thereby aligning with the SDGs.

Interrelated Goals:





9.3. GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

	SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
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SDG 6 calls for ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, and ending open defecation. It also aims to improve water quality, water-use efficiency, non-revenue water, and to encourage sustainable abstractions and supply of freshwater to communities.

South Africa joined other countries globally in 2000 to be part of the initial development of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The local government has not conclusively reported on SDGs, except for some isolated cities that used reporting as a tool to market their cities globally and attract investment. There is an essential difference between the MDG and SDG indicators in terms of implementation and reporting methods.

SDG 6 aims to ensure access to water and sanitation for all. However, it is acknowledged that water is inherently reflected and/or implied in all the other goals, as it is required for the sustainable development of cities.

The BCMM Water and Sanitation Department is now leading the effort to deliver on the SDGs, particularly SDG 6. It is widely recognised that achieving SDG 6 is essential for progress on all other SDGs and vice versa. Sustainable management of water and sanitation underpins wider efforts to end poverty, advance sustainable development, and sustain peace and stability.

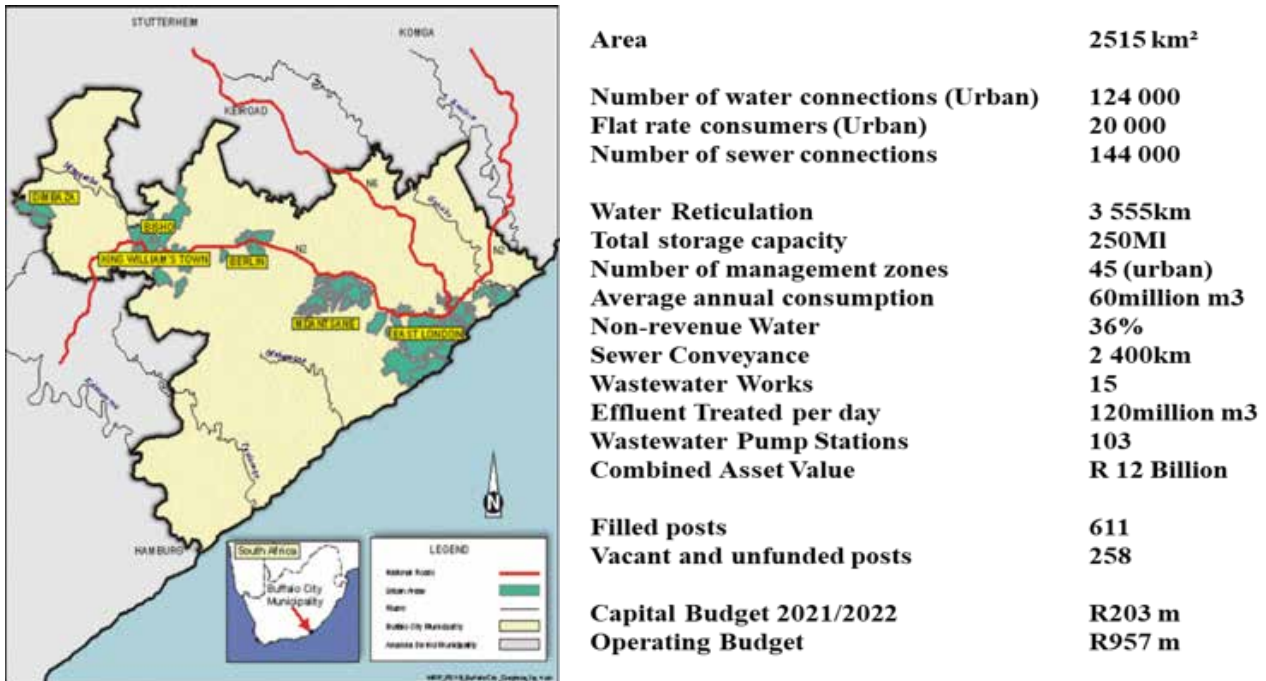


Figure 15: BCMM water and sanitation facts

a) Enabling Environment in Implementation of SDG 6

The The Constitution (RSA, 1996) grants local government the executive authority for water services. One of the objectives of local government is to ensure the sustainable provision of services to communities.

The Water Services Act, No. 108 of 1997 (RSA, 1997) and the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 (RSA, 1998d) establish the legislative framework for water supply, sanitation services, and water use. A process is underway to amend the Water Services Act to align it with the Strategic Framework for Water Services and other relevant legislation in the water sector. The Water Services Act derives its mandate, among other sources, from Section 27 of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution (RSA, 1996). Section 27 of the Constitution guarantees various rights, including the right of everyone to have access to sufficient food and water. It also requires the state to take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to progressively realise these rights. This responsibility is then reflected in the Water Services Development Plan (WSDP), which serves as the main planning document for the Water Services department. The WSDP outlines the business strategy for delivering projects and water and sanitation services to BCMM communities.



b) BCMM's Progress To-date

Access to household infrastructure data is paramount for the Municipality's economic, environmental planning, and social development initiatives. Evaluating household infrastructure typically involves measuring five key indicators:

- I. Access to dwelling units.
- II. Access to proper sanitation.
- III. Access to running water.
- IV. Access to refuse removal.
- V. Access to electricity.

A household is deemed "serviced" if it has access to all five of these basic services. Conversely, households lacking any of these services are considered part of the backlog. For the purposes of this report, the Municipality primarily focused on assessing water and sanitation services, herein referred to as 'Water Services'.



Plate 5: Communal water & facilities installed in informal settlements



BCMM has achieved significant strides in providing essential water services to communities. The SDBIP includes indicators and annual targets aligned with the SDGs. These metrics are reported across multiple national platforms, including the National Treasury, Annual Report, and the National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

StatsSA (2022) confirmed that the total population of BCMM is increasing with a long-term Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 1,56%. This implies that planning for water services infrastructure must consider a future population increase. The data demonstrated that BCMM, as both Water Services Authority (WSA) and Wastewater Services Provider (WSP), has continued to provide water and sanitation services to its citizens, with an overall improvement of the services over the years. However, some of the existing challenges that hinder the optimal delivery of water services include theft and vandalism of physical infrastructure, unauthorised connections, ageing infrastructure, and a high level of Non-Revenue Water (NRW).

SDG 6 comprises eight targets as identified by the UN in 2015. However, BCMM will only report on the following four targets: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4.

Table 28: SDG Target 6.1

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 6.1	Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
	Indicator 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

The Municipality works with communities and other stakeholders to improve safe access to water and sanitation services. It has successfully provided 97,9% of the BCMM population with access to improved sanitation services for residents in both formal and informal dwellings.

At least 97,3% (StatsSA, 2022a) of BCMM's population has access to clean and safe water supply. The Municipality has been praised for its high-quality water that is produced and supplied to the communities. The water is supplied in various ways, such as through formal dwellings with fully pressurised water pipes inside, and in informal settlements and rural areas, water is supplied through strategically positioned communal standpipes within a maximum radius of 200 metres. This means that people have to walk less than 200 metres to access clean water.

The Municipality’s water meets the strict guidelines for drinking water specified in the South African National Standards (SANS 241). The Municipality has implemented short, medium, and long-term projects to meet SDG 6 targets and indicators. Some of these projects have been ongoing for five or more years, which explains the high percentage of access or coverage. The projects include:

- I. Umzonyana Dam and East Coast Water Supply Upgrade – upgrade from 120ML/D to 150ML/D
- II. Water Backlogs – Bulk & reticulation to approximately 15 villages
- III. Upgrade Water Networks – extension of water network to un-serviced villages.

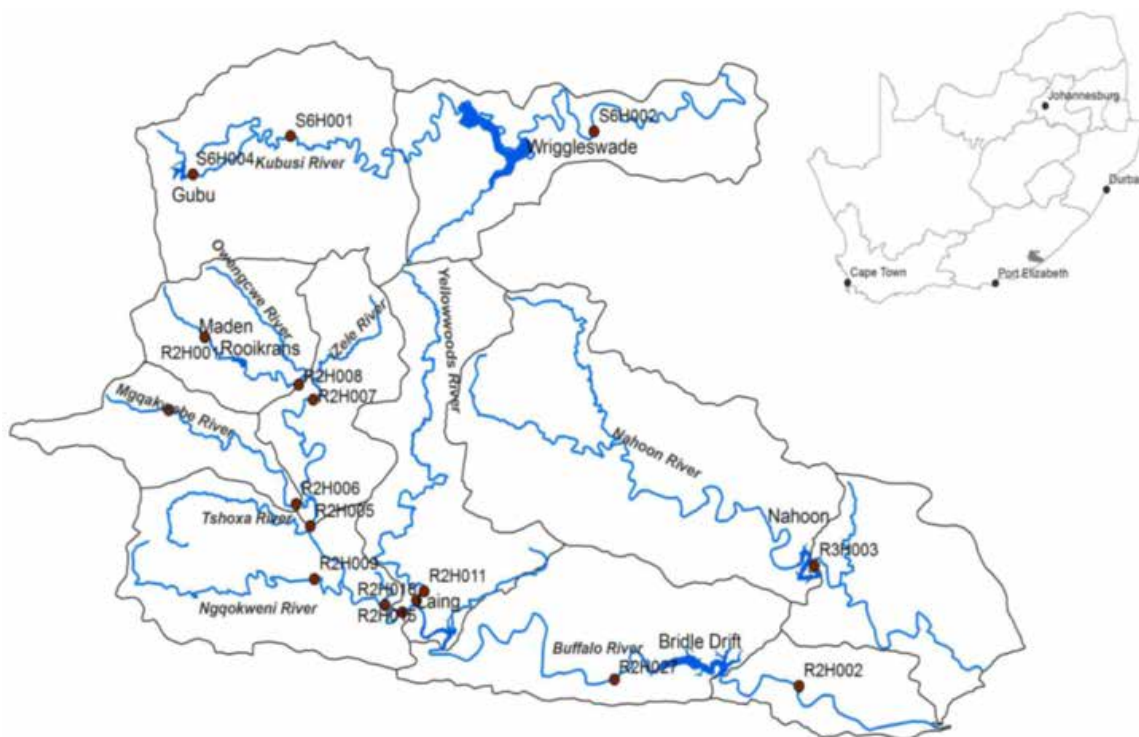


Figure 16: Amatola Water Supply System

Table 29: SDG Target 6.2

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 6.2	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.
	Indicator 6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services, and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water.



With respect to Infrastructure Asset Management (IAM), the most important and urgent regulations are those pertaining to drinking water quality and wastewater discharge. WSAs are mandated to sample, test, and record a range of parameters at specified frequencies and report them to the DWS.

The WSDP promotes the equal provision of water and sanitation to residents. In compliance with the country's statutory legislations, the Municipality has successfully provided improved sanitation services to approximately 97,9% of the population (StatsSA, 2022a).

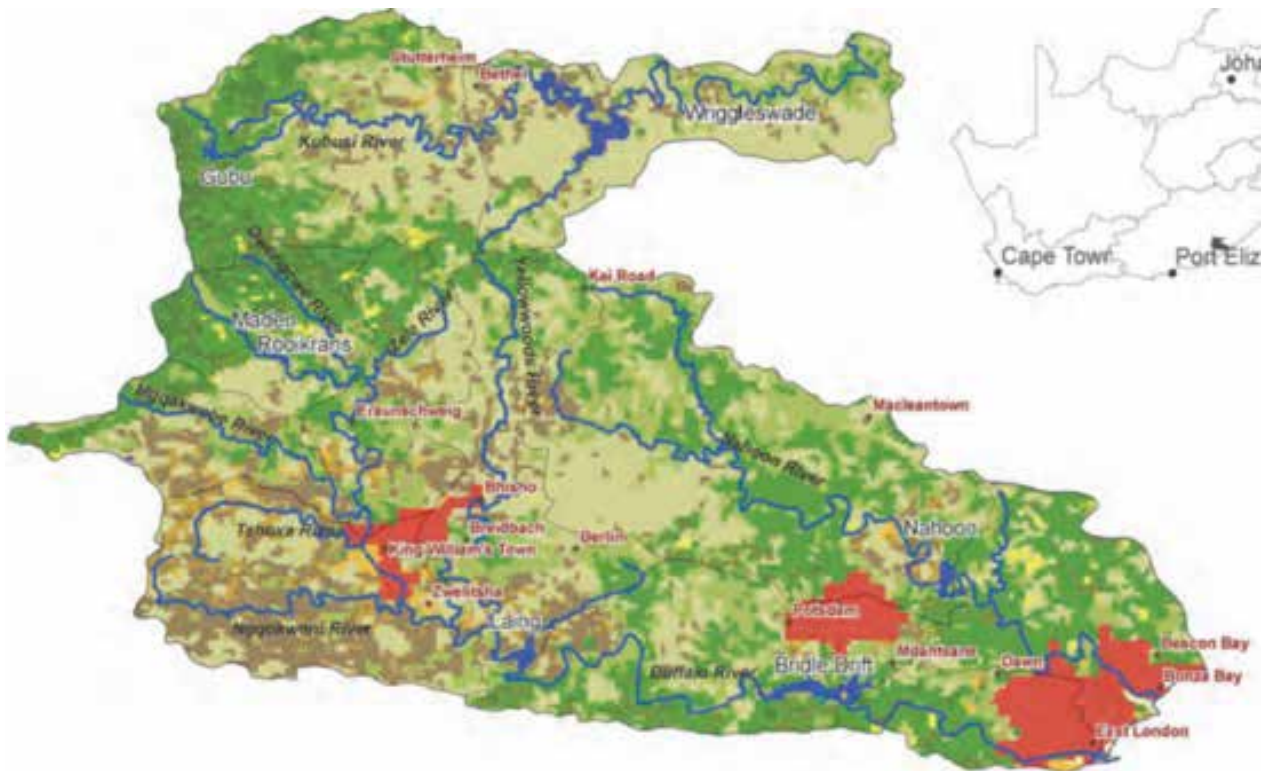


Figure 7: BCMM Wastewater Treatment Works around AWSS

The combined effluent flow of 96,3 Ml/d (35,1 million m³/a) equates to approximately 37% of potential return flow back to the Amatola Water Supply System (AWSS). In the vicinity of AWSS, there are 14 wastewater treatment works (WWTW), with one operated by Amatole District Municipality (ADM) and the remaining 13 owned and operated by BCMM.

The level of service varies from full waterborne in formal settlements (urban areas) to communal ablutions provided to informal settlements, connected to full flushing at a strategic ratio of 10 informal households to one toilet seat.



In peri-urban and rural areas, on-site sanitation is provided, with each household receiving one ventilated pit latrine (VIP). The national water and sanitation guidelines allow municipalities to provide such technology as a minimum service level.

The following key projects and programmes are the crucial tools used to unlock new developments, human settlements, and economic activities in various areas of the Municipality.

- i. Zwelitsha Regional Wastewater Upgrade
- ii. Diversion of Central WWTW to Reeston WWTW
- iii. Eastern Beach Sewer
- iv. Kidd’s Beach WWTW
- v. Upgrading of Dimbaza WWTW
- vi. Mdantsane Wastewater Treatment Upgrade
- vii. Rural Sanitation

Table 30: SDG Target 6.3

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
	Indicator 6.3.1: Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated.

WSAs and WSPs are mandated by section 62 of the Water Services Act, No. 108 of 1997 (RSA, 1997) to furnish the Minister of Water and Sanitation with essential information to effectively regulate the water sector. This encompasses providing monthly analytical results of the effluent discharged into water resources.

In the BCMM sewer system, there is no provision for the separation of domestic and industrial sewer flow. Instead, all wastewater is disposed of in the same WWTW through the same outfall sewers.

According to the WSDP, BCMM has 500 registered trade effluent customers, with their effluent classified as hazardous. Approximately 20% of these customers are inspected annually to assess compliance. As a regulator, the DWS has established an incentive-based system to evaluate wastewater performance of municipalities. Under this system, known as the “Green Drop” in South Africa, an annual audit is conducted, and scores are made public.



In the latest Green Drop report (Department of Water and Sanitation, 2023), BCMM received cautionary notices regarding 2 out of its 15 WWTW, which were classified as critical and high risk, scoring 53.2%. The acceptable score range typically falls between 80 and 90%. Plans are underway to address this situation by consolidating various WWTW, which is expected to enhance management practices and improve overall performance.

Table 31: SDG Target 6.4

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 6.4	Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.
	Indicator 6.4.1: Monitor the change in water-use efficiency over time, measured as the ratio of dollar value added to the volume of water used.

BCMM primarily depends on rainfall for its water supply, which poses a substantial risk to water supply and security, especially during periods of drought. Over the past five years, the region has endured a prolonged drought termed the “green drought”, spanning from September 2019 to approximately April 2022. This extended dry spell had severe repercussions for the municipality, necessitating the implementation of water conservation measures, including water restrictions accompanied by punitive tariffs.

To address the issue of high NRW, the Municipality has developed a Water Conservation and Water Demand Management (WC/WDM) strategy for the 5-year period from 2012/13 to 2017/18. This strategy was approved/adopted by Council in October 2012. The primary goal of the strategy is to reduce NRW levels, thereby improving the financial viability and long-term sustainability of water supply to BCMM. It is estimated that the implementation of the strategy would require approximately R132 million over the 5-year period. The strategy aims to achieve a raw water savings of 1,61 million m³/a (4.4 ML/day) and a potable water savings of at least 4,67 million m³/a (12.8 ML/day), resulting in an annual cost savings of approximately R15 million.

In the 2010/11 financial year, BCMM’s NRW increased to 45%, and this figure further rose to an all-time high of 47% in 2011/12. In response to this high level of NRW, the BCMM water department developed a WC/WDM strategy. This strategy focuses on addressing “unbilled unmetered” water consumption (such as illegal connections, firefighting flows, and watering of public open spaces), “apparent losses” (including administrative and meter inaccuracies), and “real losses” (such as water leaks and pipe bursts).

Increasing water-use efficiency, such as repairing leaking water distribution systems, using less water-intensive crops, and investing in new technology, leads to more sustainable food and industrial production systems. Water savings are often accompanied by energy savings, as less water needs to be extracted, treated, transported, and heated.

The Municipality has prioritised reducing water losses and NRW by implementing pipe and water meter replacement programmes. Over the past three financial years, the Municipality has spent more than R200 million on the pipe and meter replacement programme. The strategy requires BCMM to allocate a budget of approximately R35 million per year, but consistently maintaining this programme has been a challenge due to insufficient funding. The programme includes replacing old water meters and installing advanced remote smart meter reading systems to reduce metering inaccuracies.

Similarly, the Municipality is currently in the process of upgrading its data acquisition and telemetry system to effectively monitor water distribution and pumping systems remotely, thereby reducing water distribution losses. The table below provides BCMM’s performance on NRW for the past 14 years. Inconsistent budgeting for this indicator can be observed in the trends shown in the table below.

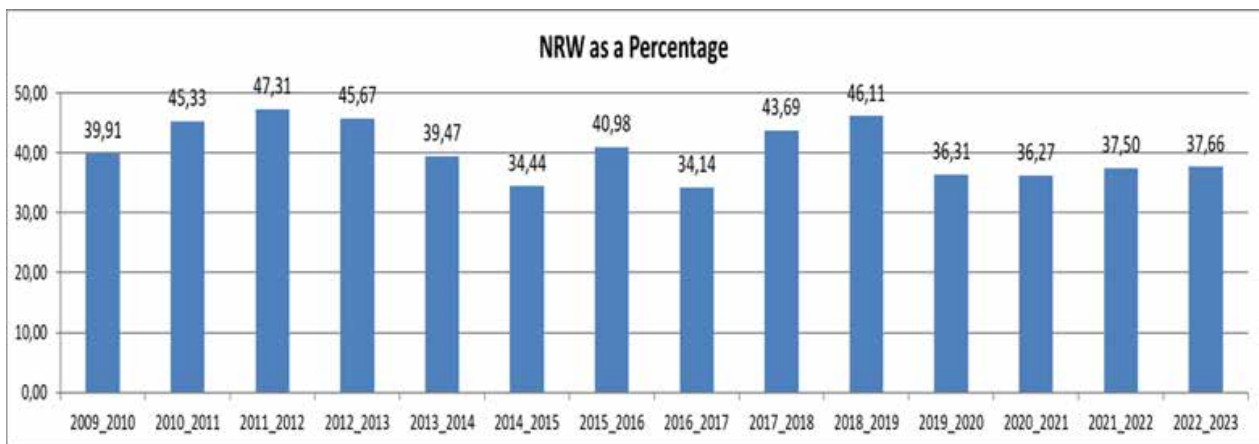


Figure 18: Non-revenue water for BCMM



c) Challenges

Challenges experienced include:

- Significant budget requirements for conducting feasibility studies on potential demand for effluent re-use (agriculture, industry, etc.).
- A substantial budget is needed to investigate and evaluate technological options for tertiary treatment of effluent, whether for effluent re-use or dam recharge.
- Considerable financial resources are required to implement effluent re-use or effluent dam recharge projects.
- Public perceptions and levels of acceptability of effluent re-use by consumers.
- The condition of existing WWTW needs attention prior to complying with acceptable effluent quality requirements.
- Competing demands for basic services may divert attention from efforts to promote effluent re-use.
- Inadequate political and administrative leadership and support, which are essential for successful implementation.

d) Sanitation backlogs

Table 32: Sanitation backlogs

Year	Backlog (Units)	Relocations (Units)	Refurbishments (Units)	Emptying of Full VIPs (Units)
2023/24	8788	24 453	2 441	16 434
2022/23	6 956	26 432	2 441	12 325

- Backlog – These are new VIPs that were transferred from ADM after the conclusion of new demarcations.
- Relocations – These are VIPs that were built between 2005 and 2012. They were constructed using partial lining and cannot be emptied when full. This figure also includes approximately 1 979 collapsing toilets.
- Refurbishments – This category comprises toilets that have exceeded their design lifespan (beyond latent defect liability period) and now require refurbishment.

Emptying of Full VIPs – This category includes fully lined VIP units constructed five years ago and earlier, excluding any units classified as “Relocations”. There has been a significant increase in the emptying of VIPs. This increase is primarily attributed to the addition of VIPs that reached full capacity during the last financial year. Additionally, the replacement of the 1 979 collapsing toilets has resulted in their removal from the overall figures.



e) BCMM Interventions

- Implementation of Water Restrictions and Punitive Tariffs
- Water Conservation and Water Demand Management Interventions
- Under Ground Water Investigations
- Investigations for Rainwater harvesting at households
- Consumer Awareness Campaigns
- Effluent Re-use & Stormwater harvesting
- Desalination
- Construction of New Dams
- Prioritisation of emptying of full VIP toilets
- Allocation of budget for refurbishments to existing VIPs

The report outlines the progress achieved by the Water Services department in addressing SDG 6, which primarily entails providing access to water services to all consumers within BCMM's jurisdiction. As highlighted in the report, the department continues to grapple with significant challenges, particularly in terms of maintaining existing infrastructure. Infrastructure vandalism remains a pervasive issue affecting communities nationwide.

Despite these challenges, the Municipality has a noteworthy narrative to share, having successfully sustained the provision of high-quality water and sanitation services amidst numerous obstacles.


Interrelated Goals:







9.4. GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

	<p>SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable</p>
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Progress Made on Goals and Targets in BCMM

BCMM has been diligently working to align its implementation of development projects with the globally agreed SDGs. This chapter provides an overview of the Municipality’s progress in realising the targets outlined under **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**, which aims to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

The report provides insights into the progress and challenges related to nine out of the ten targets of SDG 11. It is important to note that SDG 11 is guided by the understanding that, according to the Global Goals:

“The world’s population is constantly increasing. To accommodate everyone, we need to build modern, sustainable cities. For all of us to survive and prosper, we need new, intelligent urban planning that creates safe, affordable, and resilient cities with green and culturally inspiring living conditions”.

It is crucial to highlight that the pursuit of SDG 11 within BCMM is closely aligned with the City’s strategic economic vision, the MGDS: Vision 2030, specifically its pillar of ‘Creating a Spatially Transformed City’. Under this pillar, the Municipality and its stakeholders are entrusted with the responsibility of addressing apartheid spatial patterns by ensuring the provision of adequate housing and affordable services in enhanced living environments.

Table 33: SDG 11.1

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 11.1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing, as well as basic services, and upgrade slums.



BCMM INTERVENTIONS

I. Building Safe and Affordable Housing (Target 11.1)

Target 11.1 of the SDGs requires global stakeholders to “By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums”. BCMM has been diligently working towards providing decent housing for communities, following the philosophy of creating functional and liveable human settlements. In alignment with the policy of the South African Government, BCMM is implementing initiatives to offer free houses to the economically disadvantaged, while also allocating land parcels for those who can afford to build their own homes. Furthermore, the national and provincial governments offer support by providing affordable housing options for sale and rent to citizens who do not qualify for free housing but are ineligible for home loans from major banks.

The BCMM Council has recognised the importance of providing socio-economic infrastructure in newly developed human settlements. The objective is to ensure that these settlements become truly habitable spaces equipped with essential amenities, including community halls, land designated for religious purposes, sports facilities, and other recreational amenities.

• Housing Delivery

Since 2016, in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Human Settlements, BCMM has constructed and delivered 9 766 houses to the residents of BCMM. Additionally, within the same timeframe, 1 467 serviced sites were developed and handed over.

The housing projects undertaken by Buffalo City include:

- Boxwood Housing Project
- Potsdam Ikhwezi Block 1
- Mdantsane Zone 18c
- Tyutyu Phase 3
- Potsdam Village
- Mzamomhle Housing Project, and
- Scenery Park Housing Project

• New Housing Projects Planned

The Municipality has expanded its development of sustainable communities through human settlements development by partnering with the Housing Development Agency to deliver 4 249 houses over the next three years.

Contractors have already begun work in Peelson for 589 housing units and in Reeston for 600 housing units. During these developments, employment opportunities will be created, and small, micro, and medium enterprises (SMMEs) will also have a stake. Over 300 jobs will be created in the communities where the projects will take place.



One of Buffalo City’s flagship human settlements development projects is the Duncan Village De-Densification project, which aims to benefit 20 000 households in the informal settlement area of Duncan Village. Two temporary relocation areas have been established at the Ziphunzana Bypass and Mtsotso.

The plan is to move the beneficiaries from the densely populated Duncan Village area and place them in these temporary relocation areas (TRAs) while construction takes place in the areas where they have been relocated. Some residents will benefit from housing projects that are not in Duncan Village, resulting in some people in the TRAs becoming beneficiaries of houses being constructed in other areas, such as

Reeston Location. This is expected to free up land in the Duncan Village area, leading to de-densification and the creation of a sustainable community in line with the objectives of SDG 11.

According to the recent Census by StatsSA (2022), 85,6% of the population of BCMM lives in formal housing dwellings, an increase from 71,9% in 2011. Additionally, 3% of the population of BCMM stays in traditional dwellings, while only 11,2% stay in informal settlements. This means that 88,6% of households in Buffalo City stay in decent houses that meet suitable standards. It is important to note that residents living in informal settlements are provided with services such as water, sanitation, and refuse removal.

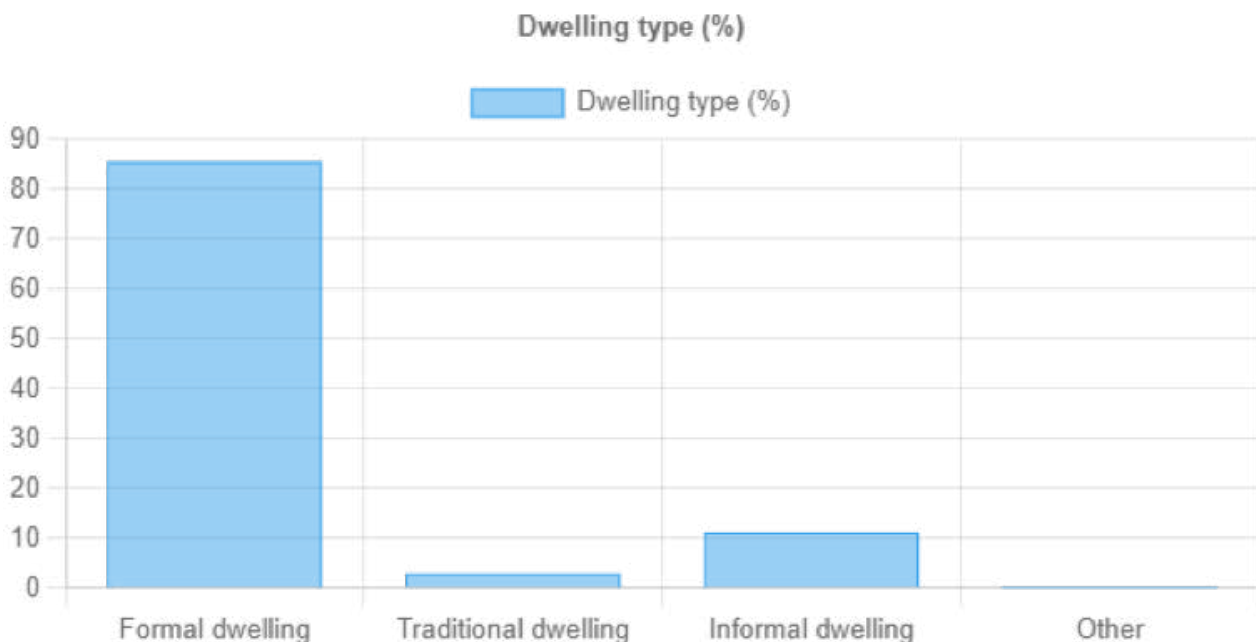


Figure 19: Household dwelling by type in BCMM (StatsSA, 2022a)



BCMM is thus making significant progress in providing human settlements, with the aim of transforming the city into a place where all residents can enjoy a high quality of life. The city’s leadership and management firmly believe that everyone has the right to the city. This approach takes into account the challenges posed by rapid urbanisation, and therefore the provision of housing for the people remains an ongoing and evolving target.

Table 34: SDG Target 11.2

SDG Target	Indicator
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.

II. Affordable and Sustainable Transport Systems (Target 11.2.)

According to Target 11.2 of the SDGs, global stakeholders must ensure the following is achieved 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”.

BCMM recognises that achieving spatial integration and transformation entails establishing a seamless connection between human settlements, central business districts, and transport infrastructure. As part of this endeavour, the Municipality has initiated projects aimed at enhancing public transport facilities, expanding the road network,

and coordinating investments with other public transport entities such as the South African National Road Agency (SANRAL), the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA), and Transnet.

The MGDS tasks the Municipality to strive towards accomplishing Target 11.2 of SDG 11 by fostering the creation of a globally connected city. According to the MGDS, a globally connected city is characterised by having robust logistics networks, including well-maintained roads, ports, airports, and railways.



- **Roads**

The BCMM roads network comprises roughly 3 320 km of surfaced and gravel roads. The surfaced roads network, which includes asphalt, concrete, and block-paved roads, spans approximately 1 680 km with an estimated replacement cost of R7 billion. Additionally, the gravel roads network extends approximately 1 640 km with an estimated replacement cost of R2,4 billion.

The Municipality has heavily invested resources in mega developments, and as a result, recently completed the construction of the Settlers Way Road Expansion Project. This project has enhanced the aesthetics of the route from East London Town to the Airport and has facilitated the movement of more than 400 trucks and inter-links daily, transporting parts between the ELIDZ), the MBSA plant, and other companies within BCMM.

BCMM has also finalised the Sleeper Site Road project as part of its initiatives to expand the road network, catering to both industrial needs and commuter traffic. Additionally, another significant road project completed is the Qumza Highway project in the Mdantsane township, enabling seamless commuting within the area and unlocking numerous business opportunities.

Overall, Buffalo City has made significant progress in upgrading its road network to facilitate daily commuting. Road construction and maintenance projects are underway across the city, spanning all townships and suburbs. Additionally, there

is an ongoing pothole repair programme to address immediate road maintenance needs. Despite the challenging financial constraints, which prevent simultaneous upgrades and maintenance of all roads to the desired level, gradual improvements are being made.

SANRAL is in the final stages of constructing a major bridge on the N2 near Qonce. This project aims to facilitate the smooth flow of traffic into the town and reduce road accidents at the Breidbach and Belstone Intersection.

- **Stormwater and Bridges**

Stormwater drainage is vital for the functioning, safety, and ecological balance of the city. The impact of rainfall and flooding can be extensive and severe, causing widespread devastation. It is imperative to allocate sufficient funding and resources to establish and maintain a well-functioning stormwater system. This is crucial for minimising damages and losses resulting from heavy rainfall.

Additionally, it has been recognised that inadequate waste management practices can significantly impair stormwater drains and contribute to flooding, particularly in informal areas. Moreover, a considerable portion of this infrastructure is outdated and undersized, necessitating replacement and upgrades.



Table 35: Existing infrastructure

Existing Infrastructure	Number
Bridge Structures	± 70
Manholes/Kerbs/Inlets/Headwalls	± 20 300
Stormwater Pipes & Culverts	600 km

• **Partnership with Transnet and the East London Port**

The Port of East London stands as the sole river port in Southern Africa, its development intricately linked with the progress of the city. Recognising this symbiotic relationship, the municipality has entered into an agreement with Transnet to collaborate on the development of the port, owing to the economic benefits and growth opportunities it offers the city.

Transnet, as a State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) overseeing all South African ports, has recently pledged significant investments into the Port of East London. BCMM is now witnessing the initial steps towards the realisation of the R4,3 billion investment announced last year. With plans for the upgrade and deepening of the port also in the developmental agenda for the coming years, Transnet underscores the importance of a well-functioning rail network to support the port’s operations.

• **Upgrade of the Rail Network**

This has sparked a renewed focus on the rail network, with Transnet announcing its commitment to developing a rail solution in East London. The Municipality is particularly interested in the development of the road network because of the positive impact it will have on the transportation of goods and services from the hinterland to BCMM. Additionally, there is potential for exporting goods from the hinterland through the Port of East London, which would have significant economic implications and benefits for the city.

Transnet has recently completed upgrades to its manganese rail line connecting BCMM to the Northern Cape, establishing East London as the primary export route for manganese. This development carries significant economic benefits for the city, with an estimated job creation potential of around 300 residents of BCMM. There is optimism that this will further drive efforts to develop the passenger terminal at the port, enabling it to accommodate more cruise liners. This enhancement would result in additional economic advantages for BCMM, particularly as far as tourism is concerned.



The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) has allocated R110 million for the upgrade of railway stations across BCMM. This investment aims to enhance the commuter rail network in BCMM, thereby facilitating more affordable commuting for residents, in alignment with Target 11.2 of the SDGs.

After recognising numerous challenges in public transport facilities in the Qonce area, the Municipality has undertaken significant upgrades to various transportation hubs. This includes the renovation of the Taxi City, Market Square Bus, and Taxi Rank, with a total investment of R68 million. Additionally, the Ginsberg Taxi Rank has undergone improvements, along with the Ebuhlanti Taxi Rank in East London, aimed at enhancing accessibility. These upgrades are crucial for the vulnerable communities of the Municipality, which heavily rely on public transport services.

- **Support for the Wheelchair for Lives Campaign to make BCMM beaches more accessible**

The Municipality is collaborating with the local NPO, Beach Wheelchair for Lives Campaign, to initiate a pilot project at three of BCMM’s most popular beaches: Orient, Nahoon, and Gonubie. The aim is to make these beaches accessible for persons with disabilities. The project includes the provision of ablution facilities, designated parking spaces, and the introduction of amphibious beach wheelchairs. These specially designed wheelchairs can be used both on land and in the water, enabling individuals to access the water while remaining afloat with the assistance of attached buoys.

Orient Beach already offers disability access, while the other two pilot projects at Nahoon and Gonubie beaches are still under development.

Table 36: SDG Target 11.3

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 11.3	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.



III. Inclusive and Sustainable Urbanisation (Target 11.3)

Target 11.3 aims to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and foster participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries by 2030.

This target acknowledges the global trend of urbanisation, wherein cities are experiencing continuous population growth and increased demands on housing, infrastructure, facilities, and environmental resources. However, it emphasises that cities should be viewed as centres of potential, serving as hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, and social development. In many cases, cities have facilitated societal advancement both socially and economically.

Addressing the challenges associated with urbanisation requires systematic institutional-level interventions, and the MSDF provides crucial spatial guidance in this regard.

The intention here is to eliminate the spatial divisions and fragmentation that characterised apartheid South Africa and establish integrated human settlements connected to all social amenities and economic centres. This entails implementing uniform norms and standards for constructing integrated human settlements that are linked to social amenities and economic centres. It also requires fostering inclusivity through various economic activities and integration, ensuring the provision of accessible, affordable, and sustainable social services.

The MGDS makes this statement of intention having observed a reality where BCMM is still characterised by deep spatial and social divisions that were deliberately created by apartheid planners. In addition to this, BCMM has a unique feature compared to any other cities: its urban-rural mix. The Diagnostic Report of the MGDS indicates that “nearly half of BCMM’s land area was located in the former Ciskei Bantustan, meaning BCMM was twice divided: between black townships and informal settlements and white suburbs, and between Ciskei and Cape Provincial Administration areas” (BCMM, 2020).

The MGDS tasks the Municipality to address this historic reality and, in doing so, it simultaneously challenges the administration to work towards achieving a sustainable city and sustainable communities in line with SDG 11. In putting this into practice, the political leadership, management, and workers of BCMM have been subscribing to the idea that human settlements should not be built far from where our people work.



Table 37: Target 11.3 Indicators

Target	Indicator
Indicator 11.3.1:	<p>“Ratio of land consumption rate to the population growth rate” –</p> <p><i>The indicator measures how compact cities are at any given time, to assess whether they are becoming more or less compact over time. This indicator is essentially spatial in nature and focusses on the creation of compact cities.</i></p>
Indicator 11.3.2:	<p>“Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically”.</p>

Legislative, planning, budgeting, and reporting reforms in recent years have been focused on spatial transformation and urbanisation management. Key national policies such as the IUDF, NDP, and NSDF mentioned above provide guidelines for transforming our human settlements into compact, efficient, and sustainable places. Spatial transformation requires all local authorities to actively transform the South African apartheid city. Indicator 11.3.1 requires each local authority to make development decisions that contribute to achieving the outcome of spatial transformation.

The BCMM Municipal Spatial Development Framework outlines a spatial strategy geared towards achieving the goal of spatial transformation. Additionally, it delineates the spatial framework for identifying Catalytic Land Development Programmes (CLDP) as detailed in the Built Environment Performance Plan (BEPP).

Each CLDP is intended to contribute to the transformation of the Municipality’s built environment into a more compact, liveable, integrated, inclusive, productive, and climate-resilient city. The overarching goal of spatial transformation is to reduce poverty and inequality, fostering more inclusive urban economic growth and enhancing the overall quality of life.

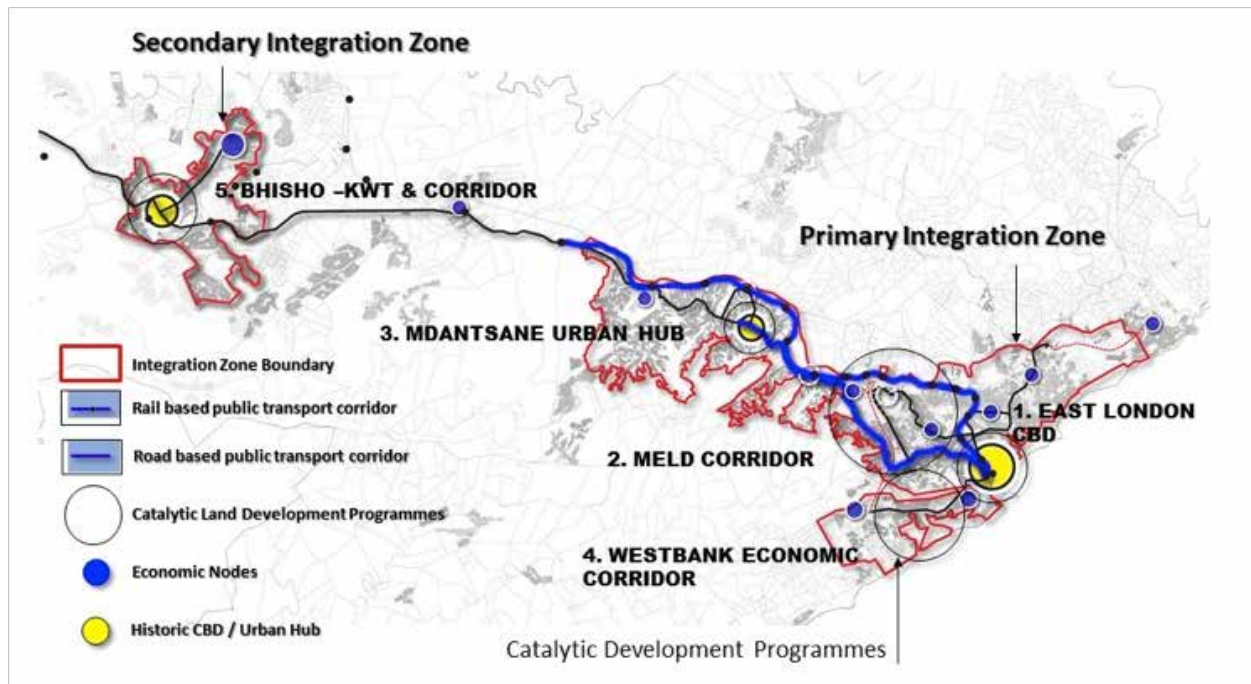


Figure 17: The spatial targeting approach from BEPP

(Source: BCMM Annual Report 2023).

In recent years, the BEPP has been instrumental in institutionalising programme coordination and joint planning within the city’s CLDPs, which include the East London CBD and Inner-City Programme, the Mdantsane East London Corridor (MELD) Corridor Programme, the Mdantsane Urban Hub Programme, the West Bank Logistics Hub Programme, and the Bhisho – Qonce – Zwelitsha Corridor Programme. To bolster its economic outlook, the Municipality has deliberately and strategically incorporated its economic nodes – such as the Ntabozuko Economic Node (formerly known as Berlin) and the Dimbaza Economic Node – into its broader integration zones. This integration has been carried out with a scientific approach, aligning these nodes with the Municipality’s overarching built environment development goals and the city’s future growth trajectory.

SPLUMA establishes the legal framework for approving land development applications, and in this regard, the approval process in BCMM is compliant. It also establishes guidelines for new developments and allows for various lawful land uses in South Africa.

It is also essential to report that BCMM is compliant with the SPLUMA. This has helped expedite the approval of plans in the Municipality, further facilitating the development of an effective and comprehensive planning system that promotes social and economic inclusion in the city.



Furthermore, the MSDF identifies strategic land parcels and determines their land uses to ensure that any development occurring in Buffalo City contributes to spatial transformation. This measure also aims to safeguard the city’s land against illegal encroachment and informality.

There is no scientific data available to measure Indicator 11.3.1 at present. Notwithstanding the lack of scientifically measured data, it is reasonable to observe that the process of creating a compact city by intensifying, densifying, and connecting the apartheid city is being achieved gradually. This slow but consistent process is a result of favourable spatial policy and zoning regulations implemented over the past two decades. However, the ongoing pressure of urbanisation has led to the growth of informal settlements on the outskirts of the city.

Indicator 11.3.2 is closely related to the Annual IDP public consultation process and the regular programme of community meetings/Imbizo’s facilitated by the political structures of the city. BCMM will strive to report on these indicators in the future.

Table 38: SDG Target 11.4

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 11.4:	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage



IV. Protect the World's Cultural Protect the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage (Target 11.4).

Target 11.4 of SDG 11 urges world leaders and stakeholders to “strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”. The Arts, Culture, and Heritage mandate of BCMM entail identifying, packaging, and implementing projects that promote unity, nation-building, reconciliation, peace, and social cohesion. It’s imperative to highlight that while this sector may sometimes be overlooked, it holds significant importance. It has the power to bring people together across various backgrounds, transcending differences in race, gender, and age, essentially serving as the glue that binds communities. The arts and culture sector creates an environment conducive to healing, restoring national pride, and fostering a deep sense of Ubuntu.

Over the years, BCMM has initiated various projects aimed at preserving and showcasing the city’s natural and cultural heritage. The Municipality has over the years made refurbishments to the Ann Bryant Art Gallery and Coach House to the value of R2,3m. This heritage building, which has proven to be one of the city’s important landmarks and tourist attractions, was donated by the Bryant family to the then city of East London in 1946 under the condition that it be utilised as an art gallery. Subsequently, the gallery officially opened its doors to the public in 1947. Today, it boasts a remarkable

collection featuring renowned artists such as Thomas Bowler, Maud Sumner, Lawrence Scully, George Pemba, Willie Bester, and Norman Catherine. Access to the gallery is free of charge, welcoming visitors to explore and appreciate its treasures.

BCMM collaborates with various stakeholders to ensure the continued functionality of the gallery. These include the Friends of the Gallery, which contributes to the gallery’s vibrancy, the East London Fine Art Society, and two art centres within the city, namely the Gompo and Mdantsane Art Centres. Additionally, the Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts, and Culture plays a crucial role in supporting the gallery’s activities.

Within the gallery, there is an exhibition space known as the “Coach House,” dedicated to promoting the work of emerging local artists. The Ann Bryant Gallery also hosts art exhibitions featuring student artists and provides a platform for artists to showcase their work. It serves as a venue for various workshops, training sessions, and relaxed events such as art and jazz sessions and picnics, enriching the cultural landscape of the city.



Other cultural heritage projects that Buffalo City has undertaken over the past five years include the following:

- Upgrading of the Rarabe royal family graves.
- Building a tombstone for Chief Tshatshu.
- Fencing the German Settlers Monument in Qonce.
- Upgrading Dr Mpilo Walter Benson Rubusana grave in Braelyn.
- Restoration work on Dimbaza Children’s Grave, reflecting on the tragic history of children who perished due to hunger during forced removals.
- Construction of Rev Mpilo W.B. Rubusana statue in front of East London City Hall.
- Upgrade to the Mdantsane Art Centre.
- Fencing of World War I memorial site.
- Upgrading Settlers Way Cemetery.
- Fencing of the Chief Phato battle site.

Table 39: SDG Targets 11.5, 11.6 and 11.7

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 11.5	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.
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.
Target 11.7	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.



V. Progress on Climate Change, Green City and Disaster (Targets 11.5, 11.6, and 11.7).

This section reports on three interrelated targets outlined in SDG 11. These targets include the need to reduce the environmental impact of cities (11.6), reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters (11.5 and 11.9), and provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces (11.7).

Climate change mitigation and adaptation are vital aspects of BCMM's long-term vision – the MGDS: Vision 2030. BCMM believes that achieving the objectives of transformation and development is only possible through the effective utilisation of its resources to address the effects of climate change. It is understood that this is a shared responsibility among all municipalities and government institutions worldwide. The reality is that the negative effects of climate change do not recognise boundaries or divisions.

BCMM has already formed partnerships with several sister cities internationally, such as the City of Fredericton in Canada and the City of Oldenburg in Germany, to design interventions that address this inconvenient truth. This collaboration is part of the Building Inclusive Green Municipalities (BIGM) initiative.

BCMM's MGDS urges the city to capitalise on its natural resources by building on its strengths as a green city. Key elements of this strategy include protecting BCMM's river systems, minimising waste, prioritising waste diversion and reuse, preventing water

loss, and diversifying the city's energy sources to include renewable energy.

All of this is a result of the reality that climate change and its effects are real, as it affects the cleanliness of our air and depletes our water sources, thus impacting food production and livelihoods. The World Bank Climate Change Action Plan reveals that one-third of the planet's land is no longer fertile enough to grow food. Over 1,3 billion people live on this deteriorating agricultural land, putting them at risk of climate-driven water shortages and depleted harvests. These circumstances contribute to worsening hunger and poverty.

Over the years, there have been gradual changes such as increasing temperatures and declining rainfall. Droughts have been prevalent, with the most recent case being the situation in most parts of the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape. Our city has also experienced significant drops in dam levels at certain periods, leading to the implementation of punitive tariff measures for water consumers.

Climate change-related disasters are among the major challenges that Buffalo City faces. In 2023, the city experienced two major devastating floods and damaging winds, which destroyed houses, displaced many people, and damaged infrastructure. There were also deadly and devastating flash floods in 2022, and the Municipality had to allocate limited resources for flood relief. Natural disasters continue to pose a challenge, and they appear to be occurring more frequently in our city. This is why BCMM places great importance on achieving targets 11.5, 11.6, and 11.7.



Progress on Goals and Targets

• Climate Change

Recognising the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation, BCMM has developed a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy. Through this strategy, the city has an Environmental and Climate Change Committee that guides the process of mainstreaming climate change into municipal planning and decision-making processes, as well as promoting integrated environmental management in the Municipality. The indicator for SDG 11 is also aligned with SDG 13: 'Climate Action', which is discussed in more detail in the next chapter.

Moreover, the committee has facilitated the creation of a Climate Change Risks and Vulnerability Report for BCMM, aiding the Municipality's efforts to mainstream climate change mitigation. Additionally, the Municipality frequently convenes a Green Forum, aimed at bolstering its dedication to sustainable livelihoods and environmental initiatives. Further initiatives are detailed in the reporting chapters for SDG 13 and SDG 17.

• Waste Management

Related to combating climate change is the fundamental necessity of maintaining the city's cleanliness and greenery. BCMM has long been dedicated to this cause. During the previous council term, the Municipality allocated resources to improve waste management infrastructure and established a specialised Waste Management Directorate, led by a permanent Head.

During this term, the new political leadership has made waste management a top priority, with a particular focus on eliminating illegal dumping and conducting regular street cleaning. The municipality is diligently striving to ensure that essential tasks are carried out effectively, resulting in noticeable progress. It is affirmed that refuse is being collected on a regular basis and illegal dumping sites are being cleared.

A prevalent challenge persists with littering among community members; however, ongoing efforts include educational initiatives and cleaning campaigns. The Municipality actively coordinates awareness-raising drives and community clean-up efforts, alongside operating an adopt-a-spot programme. Through this programme, the Municipality collaborates with communities to maintain cleanliness in open spaces. Additionally, an Integrated Rapid Response Team (IRRT) has been established, comprising various departments working together to clean and maintain key areas of the city.



The Municipality has also established strong partnerships with businesses and other stakeholders to implement clean and green initiatives. One of these partnerships is the Call-to-Action campaign, which is being carried out with the Border Kei Chamber of Business (BKCOB), and has resulted in the establishment of four waste buy-back centres.

BCMM also hosted a Waste Indaba (Summit) to solidify its partnership with different stakeholders in creating a cleaner and greener city. As a result of this summit, the Municipality has decided to explore ways of separating waste at the source. They are working in partnership with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to analyse the types of waste that are prevalent in all areas of BCMM.

In February 2022, the collaborative launch of the Household Hazardous Waste Management Project commenced. This initiative entails piloting the collection and management of hazardous waste generated at the household level. The project has been rolled out in Duncan Village, Beacon Bay, Amalinda, as well as in schools within these areas. Examples of hazardous waste collected under this project encompass used cellular phones, batteries, spent light bulbs, outdated pesticides, used oil, and expired medication. This project is helping the Municipality develop a strategy for separating waste at the

source and exploring the possibility of converting waste into energy. It will also provide valuable information for national legislation on the management of household hazardous waste.

The BCMM Development Agency (BCMDA), the Municipality's development arm, acts as the implementing agent for the Greenest Municipal Competition. Funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs, this competition incorporates a mass employment project. Its primary objective is to bolster the execution of the National Waste Management Strategy and the Municipality's Integrated Waste Management Plan, thereby advancing waste management initiatives.

The Municipality is taking measures to address the targets set by SDG 11. These measures are based on the understanding that climate change is a reality that requires extensive collaboration between government, business, labour, and the communities. Furthermore, it necessitates collaboration among various governing institutions worldwide, as demonstrated by the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.



• Clean Energy

Sustainable energy production significantly influences the Municipality's overall sustainability. Hence, SDG 11: 'Sustainable Cities and Communities', intersects with SDG 7: 'Affordable and Clean Energy'.

In 2007, South Africa experienced forced load-shedding due to a surge in energy demand surpassing Eskom's capacity to supply power nationwide. Load-shedding, a term synonymous with South Africa, is regarded as a strategy to distribute electrical power demand across various sources, preventing the shutdown of the electricity network.

The widespread impact of load-shedding on the country's economy prompted significant pressure from both industry stakeholders and the public. In response, the Department of Energy (DoE) was assigned the responsibility of implementing alternative strategies to mitigate load-shedding, while Eskom Generation was entrusted with devising an action plan to address the issue.

In terms of National requirements, BCMM is expected to reduce its consumption of electrical energy by 10%. In 2010, the BCMM Council made a pivotal decision to investigate alternative energy sources and decrease dependency on external providers. The Municipality recognises substantial potential within the city to diminish reliance on external energy sources. The following are potential energy sources to be explored:

- Wind Energy: BCMM has large tracts of land that are suitable for wind farms.
- Solar energy: BCMM has large tracts of land that are suitable for solar farms.
- Waste to Energy: BCMM has a regional waste disposal site with potential capacity.
- Waste Dump Sites: potential to harvest natural gas.
- Energy from Sewage: BCMM has 14 sewage WWTW.
- Within BCMM, there may be other sources, such as the Buffalo River.

As one of the leading municipalities in the country, BCMM has actively participated in Energy Efficiency and Demand Side Management (DSM) measures. The Municipality has successfully implemented the following projects:

- Implementation of a Load control system across BCMM, enabling load reduction during peak periods and crisis situations.
- Replacement of 400-watt fittings with 250-watt ones on all Main Road installations.
- Deployment of HPS Supra fittings, with 50-watt HPS Supra fittings replacing 125-watt MV in suburban areas.
- Collaboration with Eskom on the geyser control system, the first major joint project. BCMM has installed 45 000 ripple relays citywide, enabling a reduction of 14 MW in load demand during peak periods and serving as a tool for Maximum Demand control.



BCMM, with funding from the DoE, has successfully implemented an energy-efficient Street Lighting pilot project in Mdantsane. Key details of the project include:

- Estimated potential savings from 130 000 streetlights amount to 6,5 Mw.
- Mdantsane has 7 500 streetlights which were mainly 125 w Mercury Vapour.
- Calculated potential savings for Mdantsane was estimated at 375 Kw.
- The project has been successful as savings of up to 40% have been measured.

BCMM, in collaboration with the ELIDZ, is currently engaged in two potential projects within the Municipality:

- Project 1: Involves the implementation of a 75 MW Solar farm located in Berlin. This project has been submitted to NERSA for licencing.

- Project 2: Encompasses the pilot project of a 300 KW Wind turbine. This initiative engages a local manufacturer exploring the potential of medium-sized wind generators. A pilot site has been established to monitor performance, grid integration, safety, and metering.

In recent years, there have been significant advancements in LED light bulb technology, leading BCMM to recognise its potential for energy savings. Consequently, the Electricity department is currently in the process of establishing a pilot site, with the involvement of several manufacturers. BCMM will diligently monitor the performance of these bulbs to ensure informed decision-making for future lighting initiatives.



Plate 6: L-R Mr. Joel Kossivi Agnigbo, project coordinator Municipal Climate Partnerships, Mrs Dr. Doris Witteler-Stiepelmann of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Mr. Dr. Stefan Wilhelmy Head of Division, Service Agency Communities in One World in Engagement Global, Mr. Alexander Riesen Project Manager FKPP, Service Agency Communities in One World in Engagement Global. Visit to BCMM's Energy Efficient Project "Model Energy Efficient Building" in partnership with the City of Oldenburg in Germany in October 2019. BCMM's Energy Efficient Project "Model Energy Efficient Building".



In 2016, BCMM embarked on its inaugural Energy Efficient Municipal building pilot project in collaboration with its sister city, Oldenburg, and Next Energy in Germany, funded by Engagement Global. This project integrated various energy-efficient solutions, including solar panels, wind turbines, and motion sensors within the building infrastructure. Successfully implemented under the ambit of SDG 11, it also resonates with SDG 13 and SDG 17.

Building upon this success, BCMM, together with the City of Oldenburg and Aachen University in Germany, will jointly implement new projects. Recently approved for the financial period from 2024 to 2026, these projects carry a total value of R28 million, focusing on enhancing energy efficiency at the East Bank Wastewater Treatment facility through the implementation of solar and biogas solutions.

BCMM is collaborating with the Department of Electricity in the Presidency and MBSA to explore a new initiative involving the integration of energy produced by MBSA's Solar project into the municipal grid. This endeavour aims to support the Municipality in meeting its energy requirements. The project is anticipated to benefit not only MBSA but also the local communities and businesses within the municipal area. Additionally, it is expected to alleviate pressure on the national grid.



VI. Strong National and Regional Development Planning (Target 11.8)

Target 11.8 of the SDGs calls upon stakeholders worldwide to “Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning”.

Development planning in BCMM is guided by the MGDS: Vision 2030, reflecting South Africa’s progressive agenda. The goal is to shape BCMM into a well-governed, connected, green, and innovative municipality, fostering an environment conducive to living, working, investing, and recreation.

The MGDS is reflected in the Municipality’s BEEP, a strategic spatial planning tool. The BEEP serves as an integrated investment plan for prioritising catalytic programmes and projects in the city. Its objective is to transform the municipal built environment into a more compact, liveable, inclusive, productive, and sustainable place.

The annually reviewable five-year IDP sets clear priorities for the Municipality. Together with the budget, these priorities are implemented following consultations with residents. The SDBIP complements this process by setting clear targets and indicators in line with the specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) principles. In BCMM, there is evident synergy among all strategic

planning documents and tools. Every effort is made to contribute toward achieving the outcomes outlined in the MGDS, which are aligned with the targets of the SDGs.

To foster integration with other spheres of government at both provincial and national levels, BCMM has fully embraced the DDM. The DDM represents a matured approach to IGR, aimed at ensuring that the plans of all spheres of government are interconnected and mutually supportive. This model facilitates integrated planning and budgeting, thereby enhancing coordination in the implementation of development projects.

The Municipality utilises a comprehensive monitoring tool known as the One Plan to facilitate the implementation of the DDM within the municipal sphere. This tool meticulously outlines development plans and projects from other spheres of government relevant to BCMM, thereby facilitating their coordinated implementation and support. BCMM’s development planning aligns with the objectives of target 11.8 of the SDGs, and efforts are underway to further strengthen this alignment.

There has been a notable demonstration of BCMM’s commitment to institutionalising SDG 11 and its applicable targets. While full achievement of SDG 11 has not yet been realised in BCMM, significant strides have been made towards meeting its targets, with visible progress evident in this regard.

Interrelated Goals:





9.5. GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Progress on Goals and Targets in BCMM

BCMM plays a vital role in addressing the city's social, economic, and environmental needs. All South African municipalities, including BCMM, are tasked with the provision of services in a sustainable and equitable manner, the facilitation of social and economic development, and the promotion of a safe and healthy environment for all people living in the municipal area.

Climate change is already having a direct impact on the ability of many South African municipalities to meet their developmental objectives. Extended dry seasons, increasing temperatures, extreme storms, and sea level rise result in drought, crop failure, livestock death, damage to infrastructure, runaway fires, and will further entrench poverty with the increase of vector-borne diseases, disabling existing livelihoods, and damaging household assets. The South African National Climate Change Response (NCCR) White Paper (2011) indicates that the South African Government believes that:

- Climate change is one of the greatest threats to sustainable development.
- Climate change has the potential to undo or undermine many of the positive advances made in meeting South Africa's own development goals.
- Municipalities need to plan and respond appropriately to climate change. The challenge is our inability to predict with certainty the future conditions for which adaptation is needed. In addition, skills and capacity are limited at the local level, and there are pressing short-term needs drawing on limited municipal funds.



Section 6 of the NCCR White Paper states that to ensure that climate change considerations and climate change responses are fully mainstreamed into the work of government, all three spheres of government, all government departments, and all state-owned enterprises must:

- By 2012, conduct a review of all policies, strategies, legislation, regulations, and plans falling within its jurisdiction or sphere of influence to ensure full alignment with the NCCR Policy.
- By 2014, ensure that all policies, strategies, legislation, regulations, and plans falling within its jurisdiction or sphere of influence are fully aligned with the NCCR.
- The NCCR White Paper therefore places an obligation on BCMM to formally include a climate change response in planning. In line with this, the South African Municipal Infrastructure Dialogue on Climate Change (January 2010) notes that local governments, with their task of approving and implementing development frameworks around the country, are seen as uniquely placed to tackle climate change.

Furthermore, in terms of the South African Constitution (RSA, 1996), local government is specifically obligated to:

- Provide services to communities in a sustainable manner.
- Promote social and economic development.
- Promote a safe and healthy environment.
- Encourage public involvement in the matters of local government.

In 2015, the city formulated a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy aimed at bolstering both mitigation and adaptation measures. The current BCMM Climate Change Strategy closely aligns with the directives outlined in the DEA and SALGA's "Let's Respond: Guide to Integrating Climate Change Risks and Opportunities into Municipal Planning". Its goal is to facilitate the seamless integration of a climate change response strategy into municipal systems and structures, thereby fostering appropriate development and enhancing long-term adaptive capacity.



Table 40: SDG Targets 13.1 and 13.3

SDG Target	SDG Indicator
13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.	13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies.
13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.	

BCMM Interventions towards Achieving the SDGs

The Municipality has developed various planning tools to respond to climate change adaptation and mitigation, namely:

- Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Report in 2019 (adopted by Council in 2021).
- Mapping of Vulnerable Coastal Areas adopted in 2019.
- Invasive Alien Species Monitoring and Eradication Plan in 2019.
- Developed Wetlands report in 2017, followed by a wetland database.
- Cool Cities Living Lab Initiative

Currently, the Municipality is collaborating with the World Bank through the Cities Support Programme (CSP) of the National Treasury. The city is participating in an initiative that aims to promote data and communication for climate action in South African cities. This initiative is known as the “Cool Cities Living Lab Initiative”. The Living Lab initiative aims to assist municipalities in speeding up their policies and initiatives on heat resilience while adopting a “citizen science” approach. The outcomes of this initiative will include the implementation of community-based heat mapping and solutions that focus on areas and communities within the Municipality that are most susceptible to the risks of extreme heat.

- **Indicator 11.6.2: Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g., PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)**
- **Air Quality Monitoring**

The Municipality formulated and adopted the Air Quality Management Plan during the 2017/18 financial year (BCMM, 2018), with a scheduled review slated for the 2024/25 financial period. This plan is designed to pinpoint and mitigate significant sources of impact through suitable solutions, thereby minimising health effects and environmental impacts. Across BCMM, the city maintains four Air Quality monitoring stations to ensure effective control and management of air quality levels.



Air Quality Index (AQI) and Colour Legend

The table below defines the Air Quality Index scale as defined by the US-Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2016 standard:

Table 41: Air Quality Index Scale

AQI	Air Pollution Level	Health Implications	Cautionary Statement (for PM2.5)
0 – 50	Good	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk	None
51 –100	Moderate	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
101 – 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
151 – 200	Unhealthy	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged outdoor exertion; everyone else, especially children, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion
201 – 300	Very Unhealthy	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid all outdoor exertion; everyone else, especially children, should limit outdoor exertion.
300+	Hazardous	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects	Everyone should avoid all outdoor exertion

The current air quality in East London in BCMM is:

Table 42: Current air quality in East London

Air pollution level	Air quality index	Main pollutant
Good	11* US AQI	PM2.5
Pollutants		Concentration
PM2.5		2.8*µg/m ³



IQAIR* AQI Modelled Using Satellite Data

PM2.5 concentration in East London air currently meets the World Health Organisation (WHO) annual air quality guideline value.

Currently, the Municipality conducts air quality monitoring; however, the data is not integrated into national or international databases for ongoing assessment of pollution levels in the city. Despite BCMM's favourable air quality ranking, which contributes to its reputation as a liveable city with a good quality of life, there remains an opportunity to further reduce pollution levels for the betterment of all citizens.

The city plans to review and enhance its Climate Change Strategy to align with the requirements outlined in the newly Gazetted Climate Change Bill of 2022. This review process will consider the provisions of the MetroView project and existing planning policies to ensure comprehensive and effective adaptation and mitigation measures are in place.

- **The Greenbook MetroView Project**

The GreenBook MetroView was an online tool developed for BCMM through the support of National Treasury's CSP, Absa, and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) research and development funding. The project was launched at the BCMM SDGs Stakeholder Workshop on 21 November 2023.

The MetroView provides a Climate Risk Profile Tool that offers a current and future overview of climate change and its impacts at three different levels: municipal, planning region, and ward.

The Tool presents spatialised and quantified evidence of climate risk, vulnerability, and demographics, and facilitates the communication and analysis of this evidence to assist practitioners, policymakers, and decision-makers in effectively informing and adding value to climate change adaptation and strategic planning. In addition to providing a solid evidence base, the spatial information on climate risk and vulnerability serves as a foundation for developing a shared understanding of the potential impacts of climate change and the decisions that need to be made in response to them. The spatial communication of climate risks and vulnerabilities through the GreenBook MetroView can help inform and prioritise adaptation efforts to safeguard development and build long-term resilience.

The Climate Risk and Vulnerability Profile for BCMM consists of six main sections:

- Overview
- Climate
- Hazard
- Exposure
- Vulnerability
- Climate Risk Zones



The information contained in the Climate Risk Profile is intended to support long-term strategic planning in metropolitan municipalities, raise awareness, and facilitate communication about climate risk and vulnerability. The profile provides an indication of climate trends, population dynamics, and hazards across the metropolitan municipality, its regions, and its wards. Climate risk zones identify areas with the potential for adverse consequences resulting from the interaction of vulnerability, exposure, and one or more climate-related hazards. These zones should not be considered definitive boundaries beyond which climate risk does not exist. All information used in the profile is derived using geographic information system (GIS) analysis and modelling techniques based on secondary data and does not rely on local surveys (Green Book, 2023).

- **BCMM Green Forum**

As part of the Climate Change Strategy, one of the initiatives involves hosting an annual Green Forum. Established in 2019, the BCMM Green Forum convenes annually with the aim of bolstering environmental awareness and reaffirming the municipality's dedication to addressing environmental issues and climate change. Additionally, the Forum serves as a platform to advocate for and reinforce the Municipality's commitment to sustainable livelihoods and green initiatives.

- **Wetland Restoration Programme**

The Wetland Restoration Programme is also an essential climate change adaptation and mitigation tool that adds value to the Municipality's efforts to improve climate change resilience. Various departments within BCMM, along with other organisations, conduct a joint environmental education programme to raise awareness. School children of diverse age groups and communities within BCMM participate in these discussions on different environmental issues.

- **Partnerships**

BCMM has established international partnerships with cities such as the City of Fredericton in Canada and the City of Oldenburg in Germany. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, in partnership with SALGA, received a contribution from Global Affairs to implement "The Building Inclusive Green Municipalities" (BIGM) initiative. Within the EC province, local partnerships with Port St Johns, Mbizana Local Municipality, and King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality were formed through SALGA to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

Interrelated Goals:





9.6. GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Progress with Goals and Target

In the period since South Africa's transition to democracy, local government international relations have become an integral part of the growing contact between South Africa and the rest of the world, both at a bilateral and multilateral level. South African municipalities, including BCMM, have been extensively participating in numerous activities with international associations. As a result, a wide range of international cooperation arrangements have been established between municipalities from South Africa and other countries. These arrangements range from twinning agreements to exchange programmes and conferences. The South African Foreign Policy serves as the guiding framework for all international relations activities within the country. It outlines the priorities of the South African Government, which municipalities and other stakeholders must consider when engaging in international relations activities.

The underlying principles that serve as guidelines in the conduct of our foreign relations were coined by Minister Alfred Nzo at the Heads of Mission Conference held in September 1995 in Pretoria.

These principles include a commitment to:

- I. Promoting human rights.
- II. Upholding democracy.
- III. Advocating for justice and adherence to international law in inter-state relations.
- IV. Supporting international peace and utilising agreed-upon mechanisms for conflict resolution.
- V. Safeguarding Africa's interests in global affairs.
- VI. Fostering economic development through regional and international cooperation in an interdependent world.

These principles underpin all of BCMM's partnerships with both international and local partners. International relations, especially development cooperation, have been among BCMM's top priorities. The Municipality's IDP delineates the focal points for international development cooperation endeavours. According to the Local Government Municipal Structures



Act, No. 117 of 1998 (RSA, 1998a), Section 56(2), the Executive Mayor is tasked with overseeing engagements in international relations.

In terms of the Act, the Executive Mayor must:

- I. Identify the needs of the Municipality.
- II. Review and evaluate those needs in order of priority.
- III. Recommend to the municipal Council strategies, programmes, and services to address priority needs through the IDP, and the estimates of revenue and expenditure, taking into account any applicable national and provincial development plans; and
- IV. Recommend or determine the best way including partnership and other approaches to deliver those strategies, programmes, and services to the maximum benefit of the community.

BCMM's approach to international relations and IGR is primarily driven by the potential opportunities that partnerships can offer, not only for the Municipality but also for the city as a whole. This approach is development-focused and ensures that the Municipality's engagement in establishing and maintaining partnerships must contribute to:

- a) Economic development of the area, including, but not limited to, tourism, investment, and trade.
- b) Cultural development of the area, including, but not limited to, respect for different cultures and artistic pursuit.
- c) Social development, including, but not limited to, sporting exchanges and horticultural interests; and
- d) Educational development, including, but not limited to, links between NGOs, CBOs, the business community, and other areas of exchange.

Through the alignment of the development cooperation and international relations efforts and agreements, BCMM has been able to:

- I. Facilitate information and knowledge sharing.
- II. Equip councillors with additional skills and capacity.
- III. Build managerial and technical capacity.
- IV. Promote BCMM as an attractive location for investment and tourism.
- V. Develop project partnerships for mutual benefits.
- VI. Address regional and global challenges that have local impacts which need to be tackled on a broad basis; and
- VII. Contribute to global understanding, solidarity, and peace.



Table 43: SDG Target 17.16

SDG Target	Indicator
Target 17.16	<p>Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SDGs in all countries, in particular developing countries.</p> <p>Indicator 17.16.1: Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the SDGs.</p>

a) Partnerships and Cooperation

The BCMM Municipal International Relations Policy Framework (MIRPF) enables the Municipality to collaborate with local governments, businesses, communities, and community-based organisations to develop and establish links with one another in different countries. These partnerships aim to share information, experiences, and expertise in matters of mutual interest concerning BCMM’s and South Africa’s Foreign Relations. International partnerships are strategic efforts by the Municipality to mobilise resources, improve service delivery, and enhance skills and capacity within the Municipality.

On the other hand, the BCMM MIRPF also enables the Municipality to engage with all national and provincial departments, state-owned enterprises, parastatals, agencies, as well as other local and district governments in the country through Political and Technical IGR Forums and other IGR structures established in the Municipality.

I. International Relations

International and national linkages offer numerous benefits, including facilitating the sharing of expertise, capacity building, and exchanging best practices. BCMM aligns its approach directly with the South African Foreign Policy, which provides guidelines for international cooperation.

International development cooperation or aid manifests in various forms beyond financial assistance. Donors may contribute funds for developmental projects through application processes. Additionally, aid can take the form of funding for project implementation, expertise sharing, skills transfer, and capacity building. Furthermore, aid may include the provision of goods, such as food aid and secondhand books.

To ensure meaningful cooperation with partner cities, BCMM has entered into agreements in the form of declaration of intents or memoranda of understanding.



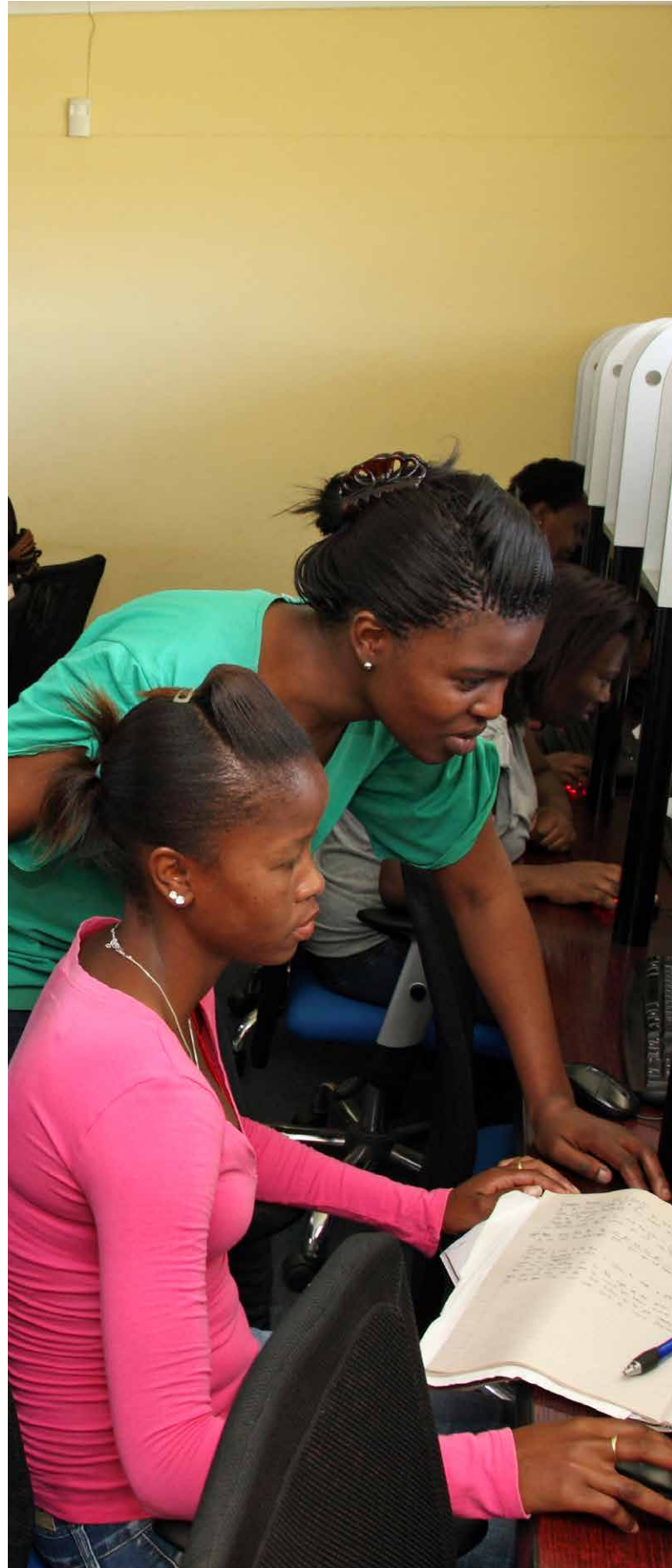
Detailed Frameworks have also been developed to accompany and complement these agreements. For international partners, management and coordination of donor aid and programmes are considered a priority.

As part of the growth and evolution of the Municipality's partnerships, the need arose in 2007 to align with the MDGs to make a more meaningful contribution towards reducing poverty by 2015. With the evolution of the SDGs, clear alignments were drawn between the SDGs and the MGDS: Vision 2030.

The aim of BCMM partnerships is to enhance development cooperation efforts by strengthening local government through strategic project identification and implementation, exchange of knowledge and experiences, and building the capacity of politicians and officials to enhance service delivery.

Since 2007 until 2018, some of the more prominent current initiatives of BCMM include twinning agreements directly or through other partners with the following cities:

- Gävle, Sweden (funded by the ICLD [International Centre for Local Democracy]);
- Leiden, Netherlands (funded by VNG and Union of Waterboards);
- Milwaukee, United States of America (USA) (funded by Sister Cities International);
- Glasgow, Scotland (funded by Commonwealth Local Government Fund); and
- NETSAFRICA, Tuscany, Italy (funded by the Region of Tuscany).





a) Buffalo City – Gävle, Sweden Partnership

The overarching objectives of the partnership programme, funded by ICLD, are to:

- Strengthen local democracy.
- Alleviate the effects of poverty.
- Improve the competence and capacity of the parties in their developmental role and as service-providers to their respective communities.
- Foster knowledge sharing in an atmosphere of mutual support and respect.

The activities encompassed within the partnership are designed to align with the priorities, goals, and objectives outlined in the Development Plans and Policies of both BCMM and Gävle.

Unlike other donors, Sida-supported programmes require that partners demonstrate mutual benefits from activities. This partnership has recognised Buffalo City as an equal partner, not in terms of monetary contribution, but in terms of sharing lessons, contributing to partnership activities, and improving the knowledge and capacity of partners and other actors.

Based on progress reports and evaluations, the following outcomes have been identified as potential areas of mutual benefit and exchange:

- Development of joint work structures.
- New perspectives on problem-solving.
- Sharing of knowledge and experience.
- Similarity of challenges and solutions.
- Acquisition of new practical skills, and
- Increased integration and cooperation from other internal departments.

As project leaders have honed valuable skills and gained experience to empower them in their respective work environments, the partnership has also broadened their understanding of social issues, culture, and language. Over time, strong relationships have been forged, and even though the Sida-supported partnership may eventually conclude, these enduring connections will persist long into the future.

As the development cooperation model has evolved over the years, there has been a reduction in direct material support from Sida to the structured programme of activities in BCMM. Consequently, it has become imperative to devise strategies to ensure that the reciprocal benefits derived from a municipal twinning relationship endure beyond the current partnership activities in Buffalo City.



Some of the projects that have been part of the BCMM–Gävle engagements included:

Sida (2001 – 2007)	SALA/IDA (2007–2009)	ICLD (2009 – 2011)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and Traffic Safety • Environment • Local Agenda 21 • Spatial Planning • HIV/AIDS • Capacity Building Programme • Orthophoto Mapping • City Development Strategy • Integration of King Williams Town Comprehensive Urban Plan with IDP • Duncan Village Housing Design Competition • Geographic Information Systems (GIS) – Phases 2 and 3 • Community Support Centres • Roads Management System • Water Management System • Transportation and Traffic Safety Pilot – Frere Hospital • Taxi Ranks • Land Use Management System • Land Management Policy • Cadastral Data • Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan • Nahoon Point Nature Reserve • Nahoon Estuary Nature Reserve Project • BCM Municipal Open Space System (MOSS) • Sanitation Policy and Strategy • Sanitation Pilot Project • Public Safety Programme • HIV/AIDS – Employee Wellness Programme • Youth at Risk • Gender and Disable Strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management & Co-ordination • Good Governance • Citizen Relationship Management (CRM) • GIS • Youth • Good Governance Public Participation • Electricity Masterplan and Maintenance system • Electricity Maintenance System • Multi-Agency Incident Management • Emergency Services • Infrastructure Asset Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and Coordination • Good Governance – Housing and Public Participation

At least 29 projects were implemented during this period under Sida from (2001 – 2007). During the SALA/IDA (2007–2009) period a minimum of 11 projects were implemented within the Municipality, benefiting at least 33 officials and 11 councillors through various exchange programmes. From 2007 to 2018, over 200 employees and 50 councillors have engaged in exchange activities with international partners.



b) Buffalo City – Leiden, Netherlands Partnership

Enhancing the competence and capacity of the involved parties in their developmental roles and as service providers to their respective communities is a key objective.

The overarching principles of a citywide approach are designed to:

- Strengthen local government.
- Facilitate the exchange of expertise and support the reconstruction of South Africa through interactions between politicians, officials, companies, civil organisations, and NGOs.

Projects implemented under this partnership include:

- Logo South HIV/AIDS Project
- BCM – SAPS Youth at Risk – Sports Project (Pilot)
- Logo South Stormwater Management Project
- Solid Waste Project
- Youth Brigade (Keys for Kids Programme)

c) Buffalo City – Milwaukee, USA

In 1997, Milwaukee County and King Williams Town (as Qonce was then known), South Africa, initiated a Sister Community relationship with the aim of establishing a partnership. While there were initial visits exchanged between the two partners, the partnership remained dormant until 2008, when Milwaukee revitalised the connection with BCMM.

An official Sister Cities Agreement was established, marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2008. The Sister City Agreement was created with the following objectives:

- Cultivating new friendships and fostering deeper understanding between the residents of Milwaukee County and BCMM, who share a common commitment to peace, freedom, and democracy;
- Promoting international goodwill and understanding through the exchange of culture, knowledge, and the development of mutually beneficial economic ties;
- Establishing new partnerships to enhance health programmes, facilitate trade and business ventures, promote literary, artistic, and educational initiatives, and foster scientific collaboration;
- Encouraging visits by citizens from both cities and facilitating official visits by government officials, civic leaders, and representatives from business, academia, and the church.



The Centre for International Health (CIH) is a vital component of the partnership. Originally established in 1985 by the Milwaukee County Government, CIH serves as a consortium of academic and health institutions, as well as medically oriented multinational organisations. These include: The Medical College of Wisconsin, Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Children's Hospital, Froedtert Hospital, the Blood Center of Wisconsin, GE HealthCare, and Milwaukee County.

Based on site visits, subject-specific expressions of collaborative interest, and an understanding of their local communities, organisational interests, and resources, four primary areas for collaboration and partnership were initially identified:

- Health Services and Health Systems Development and Exchanges
- Education/Academic Institution Exchanges and Collaborations
- Cultural Exchanges
- Sports Activities/Marketing

Projects implemented include:

- The International Food Relief Partnership (IFRP) programme with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- The African Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme (AUPAP) with Sister Cities International – upgrading of the Aspiranza Clinic.
- Extended agreement with WSU, the Medical College of Wisconsin, and the Centre for International Health.

d) Buffalo City, Amathole District, and Glasgow, Scotland

The trilateral partnership involving Glasgow, ADM, and BCM aims to advance tourism development and stimulate job creation through developmental and social programmes within the tourism sector and associated industries. A pivotal aspect of this collaboration entails the planning and establishment of:

- A Joint Marketing Bureau
- Programmes implementing community benefit clauses and credit unions
- Lighting of key tourist attractions

The partnership was designed to facilitate knowledge exchange, enabling ADM and BCM to benefit from the expertise and best practices of entities like the Glasgow City Marketing Bureau and various initiatives of the Glasgow City Council. This includes insights into the implementation of Community Benefit clauses, credit union programmes, and Glasgow's lighting strategy.



e) NETSAFRICA, Tuscany, Italy Partnership

In 2007, the governments of South Africa and Italy held several official meetings to establish meaningful collaborations in local government development. Following these interactions, the two governments agreed to jointly undertake a three-year programme aimed at strengthening decentralisation and local development processes in South Africa.

A MoU was signed in 2009 between the Department of Provincial & Local Government and the Regional Government of Tuscany.

The “Support Programme to Decentralization and Local Development Policies in SA” targeted only two provinces (Eastern Cape and Gauteng) and two municipalities within them (BCMM, O.R. Tambo District Municipality, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan, and Metsweding District Municipality). These choices were based on maintaining a balance between rural and urban areas, as well as past experiences of these areas with development cooperation programmes supported by the Italian Development Cooperation and exchanges with Italy.

Regarding the implementation of tangible projects in BCMM, Ward Based Planning Pilot Training and Hydroponics Enhancement are two projects that have been implemented.

f) Buffalo City and City of Oldenburg, Germany, Municipal Climate Change Partnership, by 2030.

The partnership agreement between the City of Oldenburg and BCMM was formalised in 2012 during the Renewable Energy Conference held in East London, South Africa. This collaboration stemmed from the longstanding partnership spanning over two decades between the Eastern Cape province in South Africa and Lower Saxony in Germany. Additionally, both cities are participants in Engagement Global’s “50 Municipal Climate Change Partnerships by 2015” programme. This initiative aims to bolster collaborations between municipalities in Germany and those in the Global South committed to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Consequently, it fosters the creation and enhancement of municipal climate partnerships.

The climate partnership between BCMM and the City of Oldenburg is integrated into the broader twinning arrangement between the two cities. The Joint Programme of Action, collaboratively developed by both partners, is centred around the following focus areas:

- **Water Management:** Addressing the challenges posed by water scarcity and threats exacerbated by climate change.
- **Energy:** Exploring sustainable solutions to meet energy demand and transition towards greener alternatives.
- **Waste Management:** Tackling issues related to waste management and



its adverse effects on environmental health.

- Environmental Education for Sustainable Development: Promoting awareness and education to foster a shift in attitudes and behaviours towards climate change and environmental stewardship, particularly in the realms of water, energy, and waste management.

From 2012 to the present, some of the projects undertaken by both cities include:

- **Upgrade of the German Settler Monument**

The German Settler Monument project received support from the Consulate of Germany in Cape Town. Some years ago, the bronze plaques were removed from the wall of the German Settler Monument on the East London Esplanade. The wall, which previously held the plaques, is located in a prominent place, and the empty niches were an eyesore on the cityscape. The German Consulate in Cape Town took a renewed interest in upgrading the Monument through mosaics, and the BCMM agreed to facilitate the restoration and upgrade process. BCM brought several stakeholders on board for the project, including the East London Museum; the Ann Bryant Gallery; the Department of Sports, Recreation Arts and Culture; Heroes Park Committee, the German Community in Buffalo City, the City of Oldenburg, and the Lower Saxony Province. The mosaic work was completed in 2015. These mosaics, which depict the German Settlement

in the EC and were upgraded at a cost of R200 000, now create a colourful landscape in the Heroes Park Precinct on the East London Esplanade and are very popular among visitors.



Plate 7: The upgraded German Settler Monument in Buffalo City

In BCMM, tourism is one of the main economic drivers. The primary motivation for tourists to visit the city is its rich historical past, vibrant cross-cultural heritage, and pristine natural coastline. The German settlers had a significant influence on the city and the province, and this memorial commemorates the positive relationships between the locals and the settlers of that time. The mosaic depicting the German Settlement now creates a colourful landscape in the Heroes Park Precinct on the East London Esplanade, attracting many visitors. These mosaic artworks enhance the city's aesthetics and its potential as a tourist and cultural destination.



- **Renewable Energy “Model Energy Efficient Public Building”**

The “Model Energy Efficient Public Building” project aimed to demonstrate the viability of alternative energy solutions for the Municipality, offering sustainable long-term energy production and distribution solutions. Funded by Nakopa and supported by expertise from the City of Oldenburg, Next Energy (now called DLR Institute), BFE, and BCMM, the project was a collaborative effort. Engagement Global and Service Agency Communities in One World commissioned an assessment of the project, which was funded by these two organisations. The project, implemented by BCMM in partnership with the City of Oldenburg, Germany, focused on creating a Modern Energy Efficient Public/Municipal Building in 2016 at the Beacon Bay Electricity Building in BCMM.

Other partners:

- Next Energy (now DLR Institute of Networked Energy Systems, Oldenburg) for demand analysis and energy planning
- Federal Technology Centre for Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (BFE) for technical project advice and training support at the Master Artisan Academy
- ELIDZ, East London, for training of technicians
- Out Of the Green Box – South African service provider

a) The Systemic Assessment

The “Model Energy Efficient Public Building” project, initiated to demonstrate the viability of alternative energy solutions for the municipality, aimed at providing sustainable, long-term energy production and distribution solutions. This project, chosen for assessment by the donors, was executed by the Beacon Bay Electricity Department under the auspices of BCMM’s Electricity Department.

The attached final report, included Annexure 7, encompasses the collated findings from the project evaluations. It delineates the developmental and climate-related impacts observed, while also scrutinising the technical execution of the projects and their potential for scalability and transferability.

The analysis of the development results was based on the actual achievement of the predefined project objectives and other effects in the context of SDG 7: ‘Affordable and Clean Energy’.

b) The Results

BCMM had established a target of reducing energy consumption by 20% and integrating renewables to cover 5% of the energy demand. However, energy consumption in municipal buildings had never been systematically measured or accounted for separately. Therefore, the project aimed to facilitate the implementation of the Eastern Cape Sustainable Energy Strategy (EC Department of Economic Development,



2012) by implementing technical modifications for energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption at the BCMM municipal building (Beacon Bay Electricity Building), while also enhancing public awareness of pertinent issues. The objectives of the project included:

- Raising awareness about the building's energy requirements
- Decreasing the building's energy demand
- Integrating renewable energy sources to meet a portion of the energy demand
- Ensuring transparency in communicating the building's energy-saving measures

Table 44: Objectives of the project

Objectives	Achievement of objectives (2017)	As at September 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create awareness of the building's energy demand among users and technicians. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurements are set up, processed, and visualised cyclically. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on energy consumption and production are collected and visualised. • Interest in and awareness of energy efficiency and renewable energy are increased significantly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the building's energy demand by at least 25% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical energy demand reduced by 40% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy savings still exist, in some cases increased. Defective equipment or components replaced with others of the same or higher efficiency class. • Calculated payback period of energy efficiency measures: 18 months. • Solar panels and rainwater collectors also installed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover a significant proportion of the building's annual energy demand using renewables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45% of the building's annual energy requirement is covered by renewables, a high proportion of which is used directly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contribution of installed renewables (micro wind turbine and solar PV) was constant until three solar modules were stolen. Modules were replaced.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate measures in the building transparently to the users, technicians and regional policy representatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefings and trainings carried out. • regional policy representatives informed about the project. • monitor displaying energy data installed in the waiting room of the building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data were visualised and communicated also visited by school groups until COVID-19. • Knowledge transfer was continued as part of the 3-year maintenance plan. • Staff members took part in further GIZ SAGEN4 training measures.



c) Outcomes of Assessment

The assessment of the project yielded the following outcomes:

- The project was rated highly results-oriented, cost-efficient, and effective.
- A comprehensive analysis of energy parameters for the administration building led to clearly formulated goals for energy savings and green power generation, with corresponding measures systematically implemented.
- Staff members' awareness and technical understanding were sustainably strengthened and deepened through regular participation in training courses provided by GIZ, among others. BCMM's Electricity Department, the implementing body, reported several follow-up activities based on the project's lessons learned.
- The project significantly increased public awareness of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region.
- Utilising visualisations proved to be an effective method for raising awareness of the achieved results.
- The project garnered coverage in several local media outlets and was showcased at international conferences.

The assessment recognised the project as a benchmark within the International Municipal Climate Change Partnership Programme with Germany, and the results were disseminated to other climate change partners for potential replication.

The project was successfully implemented and launched in October 2015 during the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister for Lower Saxony Province..

- **Upgrading of the Nahoon Estuary Reserve Boardwalk**

In recent years, the Buffalo City environs have increasingly felt the impact of climate change.

The impacts of climate change are particularly pronounced along coastal areas, where unprecedented sea level rise poses significant challenges. Global sea level rise is a matter of international concern due to its anticipated effects on coastal regions, including coastal erosion, flooding of low-lying lands, and salinisation of rivers, bays, and groundwater tables. These phenomena not only threaten human settlements but also disrupt economic activities, resulting in substantial economic losses.

In June 2011, the Nahoon Estuary reserve in Buffalo City suffered severe damage from exceptional rainfall, described by the South African Weather Services as the heaviest in over 40 years. The ensuing flooding of the Nahoon River inflicted significant harm to the boardwalks, leaving visitors vulnerable to various risks.



Plate 8: Upgraded boardwalk at Nahoon Estuary Reserve

The boardwalk upgrade was successfully completed by the end of July 2019, through funding provided by the Bingo Environmental Foundation of Lower Saxony and support from the Regional Umweltbildungszentrum (RUZ) and the City of Oldenburg's Environmental Education Centre. The upgrade, which cost R500 000, enhanced the accessibility of the existing boardwalk environmental trails within the reserve. The overarching goal is to facilitate environmental education within the reserve, fostering a sense of responsibility among schools and other interested parties to protect and preserve our environment through conscious actions and behaviour.



Plate 9: School groups on an educational visit to the upgraded boardwalk



- **Water and Sanitation**
“The go-CAM project”

“go-CAM” is an international research project funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Germany) with a total budget of €2,2 million. The project focuses on case studies in South Africa, Turkey, Brazil, and Germany under the funding initiative “Water as a Global Resource”. Within the go-CAM framework, a hydrological model is being developed for the Buffalo River and Nahoon River catchments. This model aims to assess the impact of climate change on the future availability of surface water resources and its potential implications for the future water demand of the Municipality.

The project was a collaborative effort involving BCMM, the Technical University of Braunschweig, and the Oldenburg-East Frisian Water Board.

The primary objective of go-CAM was to develop, implement, and apply multicriteria governance optimisation for sustainable water use in various coastal regions worldwide. By integrating modern decision-making methods and hydrosystems modelling findings, the project aims to create an integrated and transferable coastal zone management system. This planning tool is part of an online dialogue platform called “Coastal Aquifer Management” (CAM). The governance optimisation and software packages developed by go-CAM have gained international recognition through case studies in Brazil, Turkey, and South Africa. The project relies on modern

hydrological, hydrogeological, and geological models to estimate water resources and demand in coastal regions, particularly in BCMM. The hydrological model for the Buffalo River and Nahoon River catchments was specifically developed to assess the impact of climate change on future surface water availability and its potential interaction with the BCMM’s water demand. The research data generated from this project provides insights into rainfall patterns projected for the next 10 to 20 years. Such data can assist the Municipality in effectively managing droughts, floods, and other climatic conditions. Additionally, at least four members of the DWS participated in exchanges to Germany as part of this programme, and counterparts from Germany also benefited from visits to BCMM.



- **Awareness-raising for the Protection of Scarce Water Resources**

The project, “Raising Awareness on the Protection of Drinking Water Resources in East London”, was established based on the expertise in water resource management from both municipalities. In 2017, an application was prepared to secure funding for the project under the Partnership Projects for Sustainable Local Development (Nakopa) programme, which is administered by Engagement Global on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The project was approved to be implemented from December 2017 to September 2019.

The objectives of the project were as follows:

- Exchange knowledge and collaboratively develop a strategy for drinking water protection in BCMM.
- Discuss possibilities for the development of a joint awareness campaign in BCMM.
- Identify a specific focus area for the project within the available funding.
- Develop a Project Management Plan.

Various communication and marketing materials, including water awareness posters, videos, and materials in both English and isiXhosa, were created. Additionally, an isiXhosa rap song highlighting the importance of water and the need to protect and use it wisely was produced. This song, performed by young people from a local informal settlement,

became popular among the youth in the city. The project also provided an opportunity for employees of the DWS to learn about best practices in Germany. A total of four participants took part in this exchange programme.

- **Water Operator Partnership GIZ**

As part of the partnership with the City of Oldenburg, BCMM, Wupperverband, and Oldenburgisch-Ostfriesischer Wasserverband (OOWV) have been cooperating with each other since January 2022. Additionally, partnerships have been formed with ECWASA/Aachen University and Rhodes University for research endeavours focusing on areas such as biogas production and water quality improvement.

Jointly, since May 2022, four working groups have been established focusing on identified areas of cooperation, namely:

- Drinking water treatment,
- Wastewater treatment,
- Environmental education, and
- Digitalisation and data management.

Within the Wastewater Treatment working group, three projects were identified for implementation, namely:

- o Completion of BCMM Laboratory Information Management System,
- o Development of a Wastewater Logbook, and the
- o Development of a Wastewater Training Library.



As part of the programme, the Municipality and its partners have achieved the following:

- Provided training for six Process Controllers from the sanitation plants in Germany, enhancing their capability to optimise the functionality of the BCMM Wastewater Treatment Plants.
- Conducted training for two Water Department officials on leak detection, facilitated by counterparts from Germany.
- Submitted applications for a solar project and a biogas study at the East Bank Sanitation Treatment Works.
- Collaborated with the ECWASA to apply for a Biogas Pilot Project.

The effectiveness of international partnerships in delivering results can be attributed to several key factors:

- Commitment from both partners,
- Taking responsibility for the implementation and maintenance of projects,
- Concrete action plan with clear timeframes,
- Consistency of project implementers throughout the project, and
- Good coordination mechanisms and processes.

g) BCMM–China Partnership

BCMM has established long-standing and cordial relationships with numerous cities in China since the early 1990s. Additionally, from 2017 to 2019, BCMM has successfully facilitated the participation of at least 20 students in the Jinhua Homestay Programme in the City of Jinhua, China. Unfortunately, due to the impact of COVID-19 in 2020, the programme had to be temporarily suspended.

On 29 and 30 June 2023, BCMM proudly hosted the China Business and Partnership Conference at the East London International Conference Centre. This high-level conference was specifically designed for government and business leaders in BCMM, as well as representatives from various enterprises in the City of Shenzhen.

The conference aimed to attract a minimum of 100 local businesses, as well as 50 Chinese investors, business chambers, financial institutions, universities, farmers' associations, and other relevant government departments and agencies.

The focus was on the following:

- o Growing the Agricultural Sector and value chains – opportunities and markets
- o Opportunities in Just Energy Transition
- o Infrastructure Development
- o Expanding the Manufacturing Sector
- o Partnerships, Financing, and Access to Capital
- o Electronics and Digital Technology



As a municipality, it is imperative to proactively enhance our partnerships, particularly with businesses, potential investors, and the donor community. This is crucial for fostering an enabling environment, sustaining the economic recovery process, and fostering economic growth through heightened industrialisation. Additionally, we recognise the significance of studying turnaround strategies and tactics employed by other cities for economic recovery. Embracing these insights can guide us in becoming a more investor-friendly city and further stimulate economic development.

The conference was used as an opportunity to:

- o Renew and promote the friendly relations between China and South Africa in preparation for the visit of the Government Delegation from the City of Shenzhen to BCMM in 2024.
- o Strengthen cooperation with the Chinese Embassy and investors from China.
- o Deepen economic cooperation and trade relations with potential investors from China.
- o Encourage partnerships/joint alliance between colleges and universities.
- o Facilitate the signing of agreements to encourage business-to-business cooperation and attract investment.

The following Agreements were signed at the conference:

- Agreement between BCMM and SACNIPU (South African Chinese Commercial Business Union) aimed at fostering investment inflows into the Municipality.
- Agreement of the four Chambers of Business in BCMM, namely the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NAFCOC), BKCOB, Eastern Cape Business Council, and SACNIPU. to promote collaborative economic initiatives.
- Agreement involving the African Farmers Association of South Africa, Agri-SA, and SACINIPU.

These agreements will not only facilitate the attraction of businesses into the Municipality but also foster cooperation between businesses.



h) BCMM and Mercedes Benz, South Africa Partnership

BCMM has an agreement in place with MBSA to address institutional and service delivery challenges affecting the Municipality and its community.

The MoU aims to establish a strategic partnership that involves:

- Cultivating close working relationships between MBSA and BCMM on specific initiatives.
- Exchanging information regarding policies, strategies, and service delivery challenges faced by BCMM.

- Exploring opportunities to effectively respond to service delivery challenges and promote community empowerment, particularly youth skills empowerment, thereby enhancing employment prospects, including self-employment.

Both parties have committed to the following key pillars:

- Pillar 1: Strategic Infrastructure and Sustainable Development
- Pillar 2: Service Delivery and Community Development
- Pillar 3: Corporate Social Investment



Plate 10: BCMM Member of Mayoral Committee, Councillor Sixolisiwe Ntsasela, Executive Mayor, Councillor Princess Faku, City Manager, Mr Mxolisi Yawa, Chief Executive Office, MBSA, Mr Andries Brand, Mr Abey Kgotle, Human Resources Director MBSA at the BCMM and MBSA signing of the MoU ceremony.



STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- **Transport and Logistics**

The Municipality has committed to actively advocate and lobby for investments aimed at upgrading, deepening, and widening the East London Port.

- **Water security and quality**

The availability and quality of water are crucial factors in achieving the high manufacturing standards at MBSA, as well as for other local industries and the citizens of BCMM. MBSA, in particular, relies on high water quality for its paint shop operations. Both parties will collaborate to ensure that this standard is upheld without compromise. They will take joint responsibility, communicate their expectations, and share the necessary expertise and resources to meet the required standards.

- **Energy supply**

The Eskom load-shedding challenges have severely impacted Mercedes Benz and other businesses. It has been agreed that both parties will collaborate to explore sustainable alternatives for energy provision at the plant within the prevailing legislative framework and financial resource constraints.

- **Waste Management System (Circular Economy)**

Solid Waste Management is a significant challenge in the Municipality. Therefore, both parties are collaborating to share information, explore, and investigate possible solutions for a more sustainable city-wide waste management system.

- **Service Delivery and Community Development**

MBSA shall collaborate with BCMM regarding the MGDS: Vision 2030 initiatives, which encompass the following areas:

- City Beautification Initiatives
- City Initiatives
- Skills Development Initiatives
- Enterprise Development

- o **City Beautification Initiatives**

In accordance with the above, the parties have agreed to focus specifically on enhancing the aesthetics of the route from the King Phalo Airport, serving as the gateway into the city for international, national, and local visitors. This will involve:

- Grass-cutting along the upgraded Settlers Way up to the Steve Biko Bridge
- Maintenance of pedestrian walkways
- Vegetation control and tree planting



- Installation of proper road signage
- Provision of adequate street lighting for improved safety
- Routine stormwater and road maintenance to prevent potholes

o **Smart City Initiatives**

MBSA and BCMM have established collaboration on Smart City initiatives, encompassing but not limited to:

- Installation of CCTV cameras and monitoring systems to enhance city safety and serve as an Early Warning System against potential risks affecting business activities and public safety.
- Utilisation of Digital Screens to promote the city and its offerings.
- Deployment of Digital Street signage as deemed necessary.
- Leveraging social media platforms to share content and promote products or services in a manner that enhances both brands.

o **Skills Development Initiatives**

MBSA has committed to collaborate with BCMM by providing access to the Mercedes Benz Learning Academy (MBLA) for skills training, particularly targeting young individuals.

- Piloting auto mechanic, fitting, and turning programmes at the MBLA for high school leavers, providing both theoretical and hands-on training until they achieve a qualification equivalent to Matric.

- Implementing a graduate placement programme.
- Incorporating skills training for people with disabilities.
- Partnering with BCMM to upskill municipal employees in technical fields such as repairing waste disposal trucks and high voltage equipment.

o **Enterprise Development**

MBSA and the Municipality will collaborate to support emerging enterprises within their respective mandates, aiming to foster an inclusive, transformed, and growing local economy.

o **Corporate Social Investment**

MBSA and BCMM have also agreed to collaborate on the rollout of their Corporate Social Investment programme, aligning with their policy to address socio-economic challenges such as poverty, food security, sports development, unemployment, and substance abuse (Mercedes-Benz Group, 2023).



i) UNESCO – Buffalo City, City of Literature

On Tuesday, 31st October 2023 BCMM was designated as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Creative City of Literature. The announcement was made by the UNESCO Director-General, Ms Audrey Azoulay, on World Cities Day in Paris.

This achievement followed an eight-month, high-level bid within the UNESCO system, led by the South African Commission to the Creative Cities Network, culminating in a successful recommendation to the UNESCO Director-General.

In April 2023, Executive Mayor, Councillor Princess Faku, made an undertaking to convene a province-wide Working Group, applying for the recognition of the Municipality as one of the Cities of Literature. The designation is awarded in perpetuity, with a four-year review by UNESCO.

BCMM is one of the eight metropolitan municipalities in South Africa, serving as the seat of the Eastern Cape Province administration. The Municipality encompasses East London, Qonce, and Bhisho and has made significant contributions to the development of African literature over the centuries. This year marks the 200th anniversary of writing isiXhosa in Alice. The metro boasts key literary assets such as Lovedale Press, the University of Fort Hare, the Amazwi South African Museum of Literature, newspapers, libraries, and niche bookshops.

Pioneering writers who hail from BCMM include S.E.K. Mqhayi, W.B. Rubusana, D.D.T. Jabavu, Tiyo Soga, William Gqoba, Noni Jabavu, A.C. Jordan, Phyllis Ntantala, and Steve Biko. Some of the contemporary writers working from Buffalo City today include Ncedile Saule, Songeziwe Mahlangu, Thando Mgqolozana, Pumla Dineo Gqola, Monde Nkasawe, Mthunzikazi Mbungwana, and Madoda Ndlakuse.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network promotes cooperation among cities that have recognised creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable development. Starting this year, 350 cities worldwide will work towards a shared goal: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of local development and actively cooperating on an international level.



i) Women in Political Leadership Training (ICLD)

The decision to bid was driven by various international studies on literacy and language proficiency. These studies consistently find that children in the EC province struggle to comprehend what they read, with rural boys being the most vulnerable among the 55 observed countries. South Africa ranked last in this regard. The bid also acknowledges that literature is often an underserved sector in terms of policy, infrastructure, and resource allocation within the city. As a result, it has become part of the city's post-pandemic economic recovery strategy in the literary arts.

UNESCO has already scheduled the first meeting with the Municipality to discuss the use of the UNESCO logo and the development of a logo for the City of Literature in BCMM. In order to gain support from internal and external stakeholders and foster discussions and participation in the opportunities presented by the award, BCMM held meetings with internal departments, as well as members of the literary, creative, and cultural industries on 17 and 18 January 2024. The goal of these meetings was to collectively work towards making the City of Literature a reality, involving not only the Municipality but all citizens.

The Executive Mayor of BCMM was selected in 2023 to participate in the Women in Political Leadership Training by the ICLD. The training will be held through a series of programmes in 2024 and focuses on developing political leadership skills. It is open only to women who hold an elected seat in a local or regional government. All aspects of the training are based on equity, participation, transparency, and accountability. The goal is to strengthen democracy in the participating organisations by empowering the politician herself and capacitating female politicians in general to serve as good role models. The training also aims to increase the involvement of underrepresented groups in decision-making bodies.

The training is implemented in cooperation with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR). The first phase of the programme kicked off in Nairobi, Kenya from 6 – 11 February 2024. One of the key topics discussed during the training was the importance of leaders in driving the three aspects of sustainability (economic, social, and environmental agendas) in municipalities.

Interrelated Goals:







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10.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
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10. CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

The 17 SDGs are integrated and indivisible, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. From the perspective of the Municipality, the SDGs present an opportunity to approach development in a more conscious and deliberate manner, taking into consideration the needs, challenges, growth path, and expectations of the people living in the Municipality. This enables a focus on setting a long-term trajectory for sustainable development and making a meaningful impact on people's lives, ensuring that no one or place is left behind. The promotion of VLRs in South Africa is seen as a powerful tool to advance the localisation of the SDGs, stimulating and driving local action for their implementation. This process also strengthens coordination, cooperation, and institutional interaction between different levels of government, as encouraged by the DDM and One Plan processes. Through collaboration between national government and local authorities, the exchange of data, practices, and techniques on the implementation of the SDGs is encouraged.

BCMM is fortunate to have high-level political and administrative support for the localisation of the SDGs through VLRs, which will propel the Agenda 2030 forward.

During the report writing process, the core team recognised the importance of data gathering, recording, analysis, and presentation for prioritising and decision-making by political and administrative representatives in the Municipality. However, it was found that local government data was limited from a qualitative perspective. The localisation of the SDGs by the Municipality is seen as an opportunity to collect and analyse timely, accurate, and disaggregated data on SDG implementation. Bridging the gap between stakeholders, including those in vulnerable situations, and decision-making processes is a challenge at the local level. Strengthening multilevel governance and informing VNRs are necessary steps. Therefore, it is important to integrate the SDGs into local planning processes.



In the localisation process, BCMM is exploring the incorporation of SDGs into the Performance Management System and Financial System of the Municipality. This alignment will facilitate planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation in line with the SDGs. By institutionalising the SDGs into the Municipal Standard Chart of Accounts (mSCOA), the Municipality will be closer to achieving an acceptable level of uniformity and quality in the collection of municipal data, which is the primary objective of mSCOA. Capacitating municipalities to collect, process, and analyse data is vital for the success of SDG localisation, empowering the Municipality with local ownership of the SDGs and advancement of local priorities. The VLRs will enhance awareness of the goals and greatly strengthen BCMM's capacity to address urgent local issues, foster partnerships, and advance priorities related to equity and sustainability. Therefore, continuous communication and advocacy of the SDGs are crucial for the Municipality to ensure that no one is left behind and to encourage internal and external stakeholders to embrace an "all of society" approach to sustainability.

In addition, the Municipality is actively engaged in multiple initiatives with international, regional, and local partners that align with the principles of people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership.

Moreover, the VLRs will not only bring numerous benefits to BCMM but also complement and contribute to the national VNRs that South Africa will present at the High-level Political Forum. BCMM considers it essential to join forces with SALGA, the NPC, and the UN to support the localisation of the SDGs. This long-term commitment will enable the Municipality to cultivate a performance-driven culture by establishing a dashboard for key deliverables and setting measurable indicators and targets in collaboration with all BCMM stakeholders. Ultimately, it will contribute to realising the Municipality's vision of becoming innovative and productive, spatially transformed, green, connected, and well-governed.





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ANNEXES

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
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11. ANNEXES

- ANNEXURE 1 – Attendance Register Day 1 BCMM Managers meeting SDGs**
- ANNEXURE 2 – Attendance Register Day 2 BCMM Launch & Workshop**
- ANNEXURE 3 – Newsletter VLR Workshop 23Nov2023**
- ANNEXURE 4 – Buffalo City One Plan 2050 VERSION 09052023**
- ANNEXURE 5 – UNDP Local Action – BCM Water-and-Sanitation_231018_215337**
- ANNEXURE 6 – Utility Platform_Factsheet_OOWV-BuffaloCity_final**
- ANNEXURE 7 – Systemic Assessment Report**







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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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13. GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS			
ACSA	Airports Company of South Africa	MFMA	Municipal Finance Management Act
ADM	Amathole District Municipality	MGDS	Metro Growth and Development Strategy
AFASA	African Farmers Association of South Africa	MOSS	Municipal Open Space System
AGSA	Auditor General of South Africa	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
AGSCF	African Global Sister Cities Foundation	MSA	Municipal Systems Act
AWSS	Amatola Water Supply System	mSCOA	Municipal Standard Chart of Accounts
AQI	Air Quality Index	MTREF	Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework
ARV	Anti-Retroviral	NAASP	New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership
AU Agenda 2063	African Union Agenda 2063	NAFCOC	National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry
AUPAP	African Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme	NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
BCM	Buffalo City Municipality (prior to metro status)	NCCR	National Climate Change Response
BCMDA	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality Development Agency	NDP	National Development Plan
BCMM	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality	NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
BEPP	Built Environment Performance	NEPAD	The New Partnership for Africa's Development
BIGM	Building Inclusive Green Municipalities	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation



GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS			
BKCOB	Border Kei Chamber of Business	NHNR	National Housing Needs Register
BNG	Breaking New Ground	NPC	National Planning Commission
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa	NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
CAGR	Compound Annual Growth Rate	NRW	Non-Revenue Water
CAM	Coastal Aquifer Management	NSDF	National Spatial Development Framework
CIH	Centre for International Health	NSP	National Strategic Plan
CLDP	Catalytic Land Development Programme	NUA	New Urban Agenda
CLGF	Commonwealth Local Government Fund	NZAid	New Zealand Aid
CNIP	Ciskei National Independent Party	OAU	Organisation of African Unity
COGTA	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	OOWV	Water Authority in City of Oldenburg
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease	PDP	Provincial Development Plan
CRM	Citizen Relationship Management	PRASA	Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
CSP	Cities Support Programme	RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
CUP	Comprehensive Urban Planning	RSA	Republic of South Africa
DDM	District Development Model	RUZ	Regional Umweltbildungszentrum
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation	SACNIPU	South African Chinese Commercial Business Union
DMA	Disaster Management Act	SACU	South African Customs Union
DoE	Department of Education	SADC	Southern African Development Community

13. GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS			
DORA	Division of Revenue Act	SAFE	South African Fund for Exchange
DRMPF	Disaster Risk Management Policy Framework	SALA/IDA	Swedish Association of Local Authorities International Development Agency
DSM	Demand Side Management	SALAR	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation	SALGA	South African Local Government Association
EAP	Economically Active Population	SANRAL	South African National Road Agency
East London CBD	East London Central Business District	SANS 241	South African National Standards 241
EC	Eastern Cape	SAPS	South African Police Services
ECDC	Early Childhood Development Centre	SASQAF	South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework
ECPSDF	Eastern Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework	SASSA	South African Social Security Agency
ECWASA	Eastern Cape Water Association of South Africa	SDBIP	Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme	SDF	Spatial Development Framework
ESKOM	Elektrisiteits voorsienings kommissie	S.H.E.	Sexual Health Empowerment
ELIDZ	East London Industrial Development Zone	SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
FBE	Free Basic Electricity	SMME	Small, Micro, and Medium Enterprise
GBH	Grievous Bodily Harm	SOE	State-Owned Enterprise



GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS			
GBV&F	Gender-based Violence and Femicide	SOGIESC	Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities, Expressions, and Sex Characteristics
GIS	Geographic Information System	SPLUMA	Spatial Planning & Land Use Management Act
GSA	Gender Sexuality Alliance	StatsSA	Statistics South Africa
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum	TB	Tuberculosis
IAM	Infrastructure Asset Management	TRA	Temporary Relocation Area
ICLD	International Centre for Local Democracy	UFH	University of Fort Hare
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	UN	United Nations
ICLD	International Centre for Local Democracy	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IDP	Integrated Development Plan	UNDESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
IDZ	Industrial Development Zone	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
IFRP	International Food Relief Programme	USA	United States of America
IGR	Inter-governmental Relations	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence	VIP	Ventilated pit latrine
IRRT	Integrated Rapid Response Team	VLR	Voluntary Local Review
ISHSP	Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement Plan	VNG	Association of Netherlands Municipalities



13. GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS			
IUDF	Integrated Urban Development Framework	VNR	Voluntary National Review
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal	WC/WDM	Water Conservation and Water Demand Management
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Or Questioning	WHO	World Health Organisation
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual	WSA	Water Services Authority
MBLA	Mercedes Benz Learning Academy	WSDP	Water Services Development Plan
MBSA	Mercedes Benz South Africa	WSP	Wastewater Services Provider
MDG	Millennium Development Goal	WSU	Walter Sisulu University
MELD	Mdantsane East London Corridor	WWTW	Wastewater Treatment Works



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