MSHINI WAMI HOUSEHOLD ENUMERATION REPORT

MILNERTON, CAPE TOWN, MAY 2012

Arial photograph of Mshini-Wam

Informal Settlement Network,
Mshini Wami Community Leadership and
Community Organisation Resource Centre

PREFACE

The Community Organisation Resource Centre (CORC) is a non-governmental organisation with main offices in Cape Town but operating in all provinces that support communities prepared and willing to help them. The NGO provides support to networks of urban and rural poor communities who mobilize around their own resources and capacities. Its interventions are designed to enable rural and urban communities to learn from one another and to create solidarity and unity in order to be able to broker deals with formal institutions especially the state.

CORC's interventions are premised on the innovations of organised communities, and have a role in promoting and sustaining the process, seeing that informal settlements take on different social formations. These formations are context specific, and communities are defined by their agencies and agendas. In five major cities (Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg/Ekurhuleni and Stellenbosch) these networks of the poor gave rise to the formation of the Informal Settlement Network (ISN) – which brings together not only representatives of informal settlements, but also different movements of the urban poor (e.g. there is even an alliance with organised backyard dwellers) in a united front in their fight against poverty. The main strategy is a constructive dialogue with government towards community-driven development which is effective to address the main needs of the majority, affordable and socially sustainable.

Table of Contents

Preface

Background

Enumeration exercise

Key results

Appendix

Picture Inserts

BACKGROUND

Given the evident difficulty of Government and other agencies to fill the gap in the housing backlog, for the past months CORC's strategy has shifted from empowerment of communities towards housing, to more focused support of participative processes of informal settlement upgrading. This is especially motivated by the realisation that in our major cities where the urbanisation process is still on going, the large majority of vulnerable groups are excluded from the Government's current subsidy system.

CORC has therefore promoted gathering of independent social formations in all informal settlements and their and re-organisation in a stronger confederation, or network. The major partners of CORC are the City of Cape Town and the Informal Settlement Network (ISN) – that brings together not only representatives of informal settlements but also different movements of the urban poor (e.g. there is even an alliance with organised backyard dwellers) in a united front in their fight against poverty.

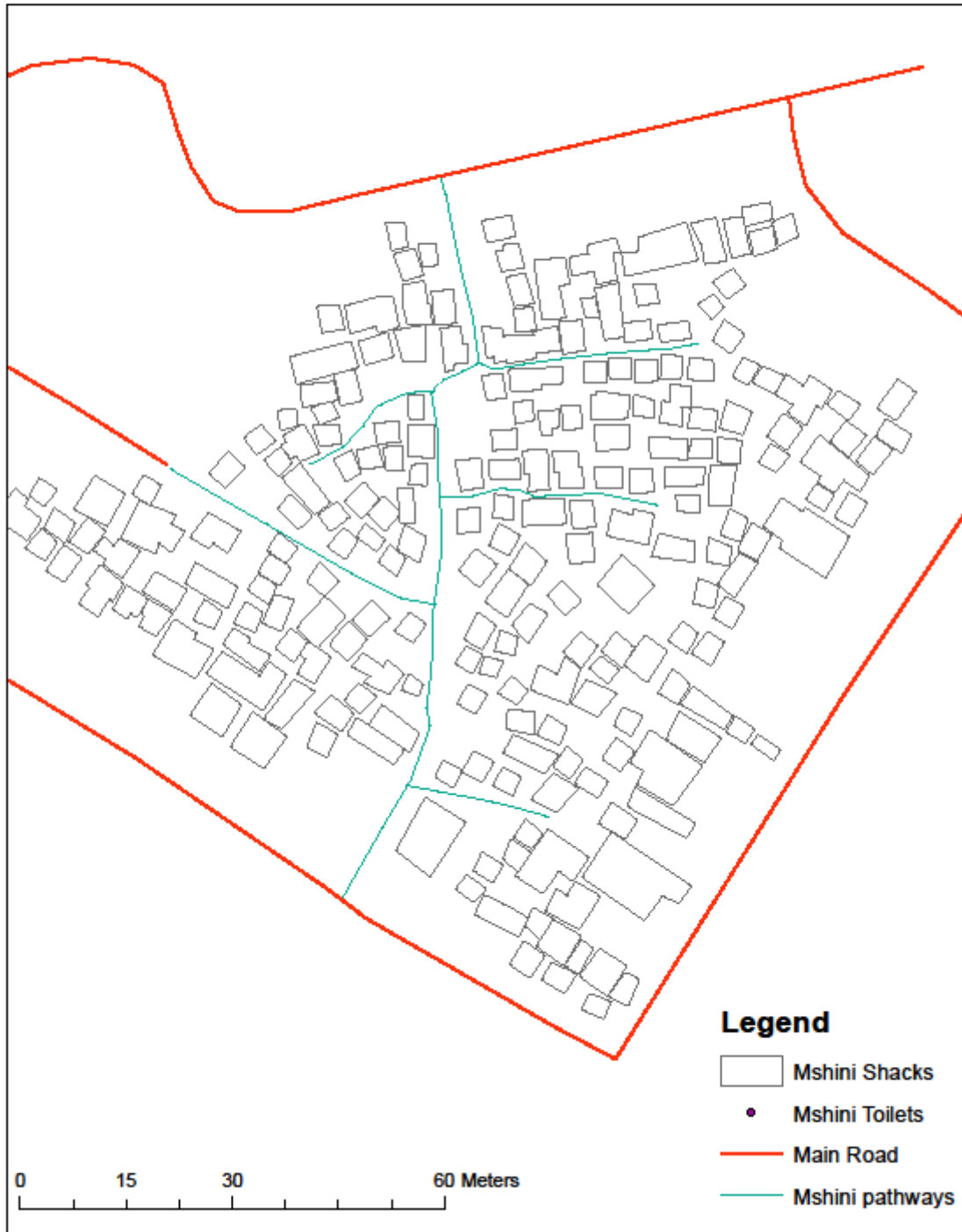Picture 1: Status of shacks during enumeration

CORC has established a working partnership with the City of Cape Town where they are working closely with communities towards upgrading their living conditions: an improved structure and provision of basic services like water, sanitation and even electricity. This is important as poor communities are best placed to know their own problems, what is most urgent for them in terms of development and are best placed to find their own solutions with government support. This approach has been borrowed from the Thai government which has found that improving infrastructure for all (before proper housing) and taking time to negotiate solutions with the people, rather than imposing development upon them, has resulted in a far easier, more effective solution to the development puzzle.

Thus the concept of settlement upgrading for CORC and its partners refers to the incremental improvements of settlements, where development occurs in stages and has been designed in a way that ensures that even the very poor have adequate access to improved shelter and infrastructure.

After the identification of the settlements, the settlements are mobilised by the Informal Settlement Network then the community leaders and the government together with CORC come together to create an outline for development. These meetings lead to the creation of different teams like the enumeration, mapping and layout teams, established to oversee development in an area and to ensure that the process is successful and genuinely implemented. An agreement was reached that local government would work with the Informal Settlement Network in identifying pilot projects for the above mentioned incremental approach to human settlement upgrading.

The procedure among all parties was clear on the first step to be taken: a community-run household survey exercise (enumeration), with the support of CORC field-workers. The enumeration was to provide the base of all the information of the settlement.

Mshini Wami Settlement
2011

N

Legend

Mshini Shacks

Mshini Toilets

Main Road

Mshini pathways

0   15   30   60 Meters

Mshini-Wam Base Map 2011

This report refers to an essential step in the implementation of a new approach devised when CORC, ISN (a network of different organisations with common objectives centred on land, infrastructure and housing), and the City of Cape Town engaged each other about an initiative of up-grading low income settlements in this city.

The upgrading is to be undertaken in the perspective that does not focus only on the provision of basic services like water and sanitation, but extends to improved shelters, too, even though still informal (shacks). The residents of this settlement have always expected that the government would provide them with basic services and adequate housing. But they realised, in the interaction with NGO and officials, that there were neither immediate nor near-future housing development plans for this settlement. Therefore they availed themselves for other options.

Picture 2: New shacks being constructed

This settlement (almost two hundred and fifty families squatting on a small piece of land in Joe Slovo, Milnerton located near Montague Gardens Industrial area) the settlement was established around 2006 -7. It used to be a bushy illegal dumping site for the people staying in the RDP houses which presently surround the informal settlement. Despite the fact that the community is illegally settled on the government land, the City Council provided the community with sanitation services. Before the engagement with CORC, the settlement of Mshini Wami was already in contact with the Municipality of Cape Town around bringing in more services especially toilets and more water taps. Through this engagement with the municipality, the community was advised to create some space in the settlement in order to pave the way for the installation of more services. The community then agreed to create some space through the creation of some "streets", this to them meant the relocation of other families into another free space which was yet to be identified. This was the time when they engaged CORC after being exposed to an almost the same exercise in Sheffield Road where more space was created through the re-blocking exercise which allowed everyone to remain on the piece of land even after the creation of more space on the small piece of land

When communities realise they risk to wait for long periods before anything can be done to them in terms of service improvement, they are open to a move like this project, which reflects a developmental paradigm shift, from government's technical (top down) and "complete" approach to "eradicate the slum" towards a community-driven scaling up after Government provides basic infrastructure. In most of the low income settlements in urban areas, housing and access to basic services remain a critical problem, but the view that government has to be the sole provider of all the services and shelter is not contributing to effective solutions. The process described here is meant to showcase the effectiveness of this new approach.

This report witnesses that relevant steps towards development can be taken by the community itself, in particular the self-conducted household survey (enumeration) as the first step of the process. The methodology is described below, but it must be highlighted that in order to

realise the survey properly and to make good use of it, the approach envisages the support and the common planning with the Informal Settlement Network, the City and CORC as technical partners and social facilitators.

The whole enumeration exercise provided the Mshini Wami community with the necessary tools and opportunity to be involved in the planning and the implementation of the development plans. This process helped the community to realise their priceless input into the whole process and suggested to look beyond the concept of waiting for long periods in anticipation of a complete house from the government. Therefore, the completion of the (short) exercise and this taking stock of the advance it represents, are just the beginning.

The data collected and elaborated are now owned by the community and an asset of both parties for the action expected from Government, which will hopefully prove that community-driven enumerations are a useful tool not just to draw in the (otherwise passive) beneficiaries into play, but to combine their work with professionals, government and support organisations into a common platform for collective planning and implementation of the general objectives of the project.

The information reported in this document are obviously only the "snapshot" of December 2011 – January 2012 , which the task team will further verify but especially compound with regular updates in order to set up a live cadastre.

This Mshini Wami Enumeration Report outlines the methodology of data collection and capture used in this exercise; analyses the major findings and brings forth the general lessons learnt in the enumeration exercise.

ENUMERATION EXERCISE

These surveys, devised and refined in various settlements around the country consist in:
- shack counting and numbering,
- mapping of the settlement,
- administration of a questionnaire devised and adjusted in community meetings, with all the relevant information about each household, and
- elaboration of the information collected,
- verification and amendments,
- presentation to the public. In particular, this body of data would be shared with Government and hopefully used by the latter as the main source of information.
- As mentioned above, a live cadastre of regular updates is the ultimate objective within reach, if community, support organisation and local government continue the collaboration.

Regular meetings were held between the community, ISN and CORC in November 2011 to make all the necessary plans for the enumeration in this project. The Community Leadership Team was involved in the planning and was also useful in bringing the whole community into

this initiative through varying levels of mobilisation. A series of mass meetings were held with the entire community for familiarisation with this kind of developmental initiative so as to reach strong agreement in terms of the meaning purpose and objectives of the proposed enumeration exercise. Furthermore, agreement was also reached about logistical aspects, which are likely or encountered in the enumeration.

The enumeration survey questionnaire was developed from previous enumerations, which were conducted in Burundi informal settlement in the eastern part of Cape Town. The questionnaire was revised through a collective effort of CORC and ISN who had an intense consultation with the community so as for it to suit the needs of the targeted beneficiaries. In order to ensure that relevant and comprehensive community information be collected, further improvements were made to the previous questionnaire. The questionnaire was outlined basing on the following domains as follows:

- Personal identity information
- Household details
- Nature of house
-Disaster history
- Migration history
- Health and sanitation.

The whole enumeration team was divided into three groups: Measuring team, mapping team and the Data Collection team. Since the community is just one piece of land surrounded by formal houses, it was not divided into any section, numbering was done with much reference to the community leadership indications.

Picture 3: community measuring

The Mshini Wami household survey was structured around one main enumeration code for all the housing units, so each household was clearly identified by the numbered (and measured) structure where it is sheltered.

Prior to the enumeration, the CORC fieldworkers, ISN and some Community Task Team members led a brief workshop to instruct and technically equip the service providers and volunteer enumerators with the necessary data collection skills, especially on how to complete the questionnaire with the surveyed families

Picture 4: Settlement design

Enumerators were instructed to collect information from people in their structures, which were numbered and measured only by the enumeration team, in order to avoid confusion. The enumerators were instructed to collect the information only through a face-to-face interview with each respondent for the entire community. For this reason, three members from the community leadership were assigned to lead all the three volunteer teams especially for their knowledge of the community. This guaranteed a high level of accuracy of the survey and helped ensure general community participation, support and ownership of the whole process. The volunteers did not face any resistance concerning the information gathering since the general population of the community responded positively to the whole exercise.

During the data collection, the volunteers were never linked to any suspicious motives like information gathering for evictions or political movements, like it had happened in other contexts. For the survey component of the project, enumerators surveyed every structure in Mshini Wami. The survey was based on a questionnaire, which took 20 minutes to be fully completed. All answers provided were confidential and would be handled as such. In the process of data collection, the respondents were informed that there would neither be any action against them for the responses they made nor for any refusal to answer all or some of the questions in the questionnaire. During the data collection substantive efforts were made to ensure the accuracy of the data, which was collected through a constant check of the completed questionnaires.

The "point in time" data collection exercise conducted by the enumeration team in all households only lasted for two days. Most of the data collection was done during the day; however, there were some special cases where information was collected during the night because the residents work commitment during the day.

After all data were entered, they were checked through cross-tabulation analysis to minimise data entry errors. Analysis followed, with statistics and reports produced showing frequency tables and graphs for the variables in the questionnaire. Of course some errors may still be affecting accuracy, due to data entry by non-professionals, or because of inconsistent answers provided by the respondents. Due to the small amount of data gathered in this enumeration, only few errors were detected during the process, thus leaving us confident about the overall integrity of the information presented hereby. The final data set analysis was done through the 2007 Microsoft Excel version and STATA. The data presented is for the whole Mshini Wami community, not a sample of it.

KEY RESULTS OF THE ENUMERATION

This section only brings out the summary of the results of the whole exercise, while more detailed data are presented below in form of charts, graphs and tables.

Table 1: Settlement profile

"Slum" Name	Mshini Wami
suburb	Milnerton
Age of settlement	Around 6 Years
Type of structures	All Shacks
Population	497
Number of shacks	250 shacks in total
Land ownership	City Council
No. of individual toilet blocks	None
No. of community toilets	16 (chemical toilets) 1 toilet: 31 people
Water taps	3 stand pipes 1 water tap : 166 people
Disaster experience	3 households experienced fire disaster 43 households experienced flooding
Most urgent needs	Upgrading: - Reblocking - Electricity, water taps and toilets

The figures shown above should be considered fairly accurate, given that there were no hindrances during the whole exercise. However, like in any survey, there may be a few minimal errors, which do not contradict the overall picture of the community we intend to provide here.

Key Findings

Community population

The table and chart below reflect the community's demography: the population is dominated by the 16 – 35 years age range and then followed by people who are 15 years and less. The dominating age range accounts for 62.02% of the entire population of Mshini-Wam. The school going age group of 0 -5 and 6 to 15 years account for 16.09% and 11.16% respectively.

Table 2: population distribution

Age	No. of people	%
(0-5)	75	16.09
(6 - 15)	52	11.16
(16 - 25)	132	28.33
(26 - 35)	157	33.69
(36 - 50)	49	10.52
(51+)	1	0.21
Total	**466**	**100**

Relationship to household head

The distribution in the figure 1 below indicates the relationship of shack occupants to the household head. As shown in the settlement profile above, the settlement is made up of 497 people. 475 of the total population disclosed their relationship during the survey. 140 of the occupants are children of the shack owners whilst 39 are wives of the heads. 38 are relatives of heads: the relationships stretch from cousins to mother-in-law.
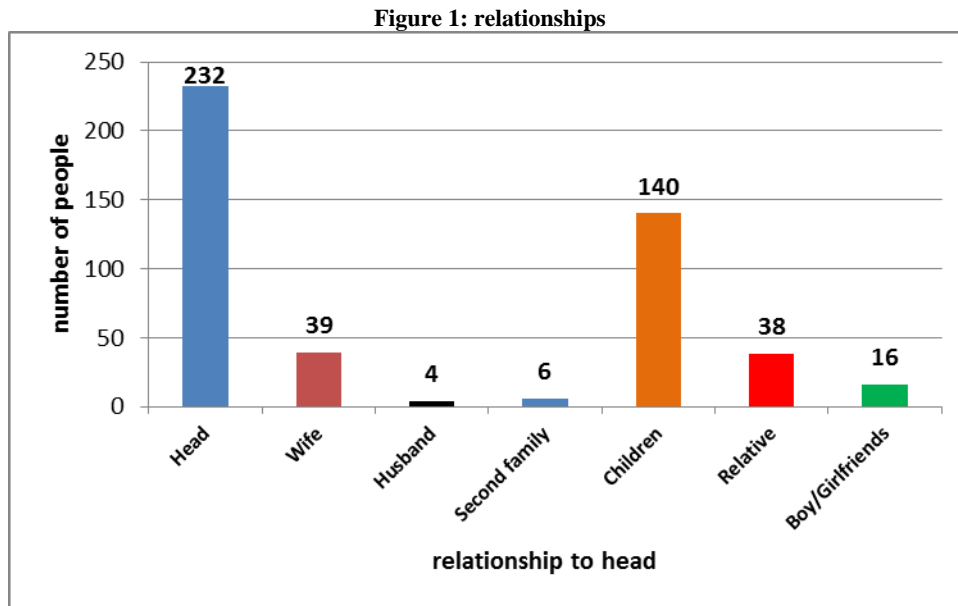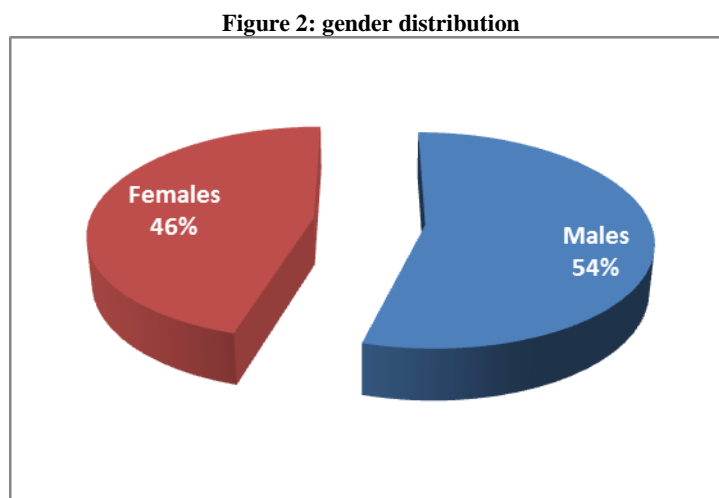
Figure 1: relationships

Figure below shows the gender distribution of the entire population indicated above. Males dominate the settlement, they account for 54%. This 54% is constituted by household heads, most of the household heads are males in this settlement.

Figure 2: gender distribution

Employment details

The employment stastistics reflected below were calculated with the assumption that children under 18 of age are school-going, hence not to be considered when determining the community's employment. From the economically active age group (18 – 64 years) which accounts for 335 people. 65% are employed with the remaining 35% accounting for the unemployed people in the community.

Figure 3: employment status
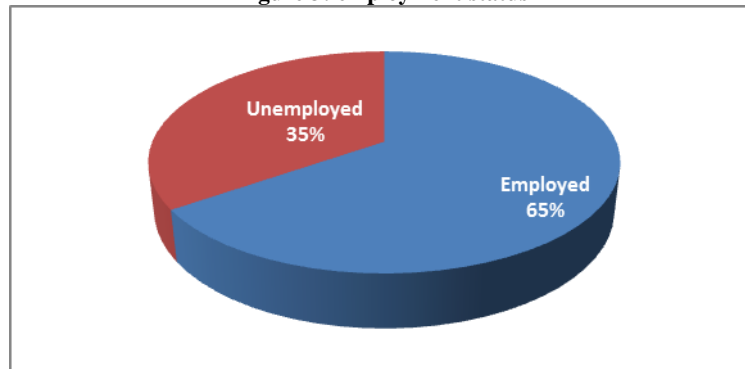
Employment was cartegorised in three main types: fulltime, part time and self employment. Graph below shows that 50% of the employed are in fulltime employment hence have a steady income. 28% are employed on part time bases whilst 6% are self employed. The self employed are normally those people who run their own small businesses like spaza shops, hair saloons, traditional healing and other activities.

Figure 4: Type of employment
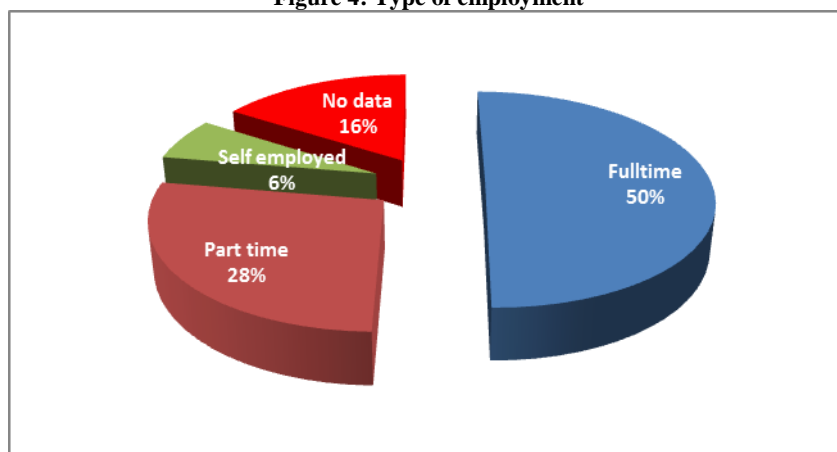
Social welfare grants

Table 3 below shows that only 76 people in the community's population receive grants for their daily expenses. The grants distribution is dominated by the child support which accounts for 74 people whilst only 2 people receive disability grant.

Table 3: grant reception

| Type	%	No. people
Disability	2.63	2
Child Support	97.37	74
Pension	0.00	0
Refugee	0.00	0
Other	0.00	0
		76

Monthly expenses of the community

The community's expenses are presented in the table below; most of the expenses are on food and clothing. Food contributes 36.61% whilst clothing expenses amount to 46.86% with school fees, transport, electricity and rent contributing the remaining 16.53% of the expenses.

Table 4: expenses

| Expense	Amount	%
food	129100	36.61
electricity	14430	4.09
transport	18688	5.30
rent	150	0.04
School fees	20915	5.93
clothing	165239	46.86
water	0	0.00
other	4100	1.16
Total	**352622**	**100**

The chart below reflects the migration history of the household heads, the community is highly constituted by people who have been staying in other areas around Cape Metro. Those who migrated from the other surbabs around Cape town account for 75% whilst the remaining 25% came directly from the Eastern Cape and settlement in the settlement.

Figure 5: Previous area of residence
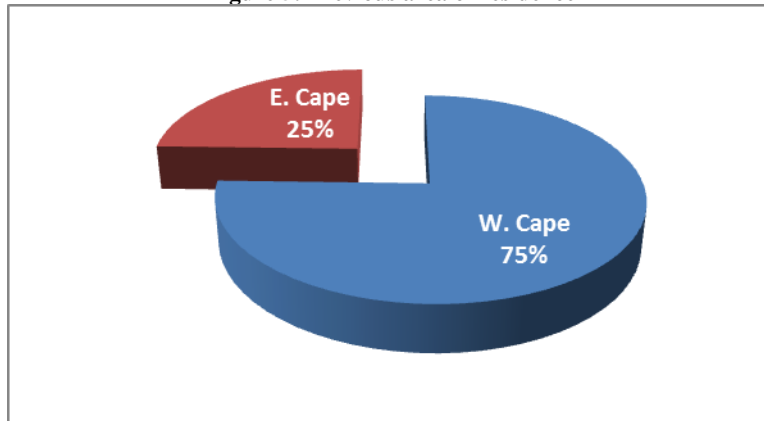
The firgure below shows that most of the people in the settlement have been resident for a period les than four years. Only 6% indicated that they have stayed in settlement for morethan 4 years. The settlement is dominated by people who have stayed in the settlement for a period rannging from two to four years. A sizable number of 41% has been in the settlement for two years or less.

Figure 6: period of stay in Mshini-Wam
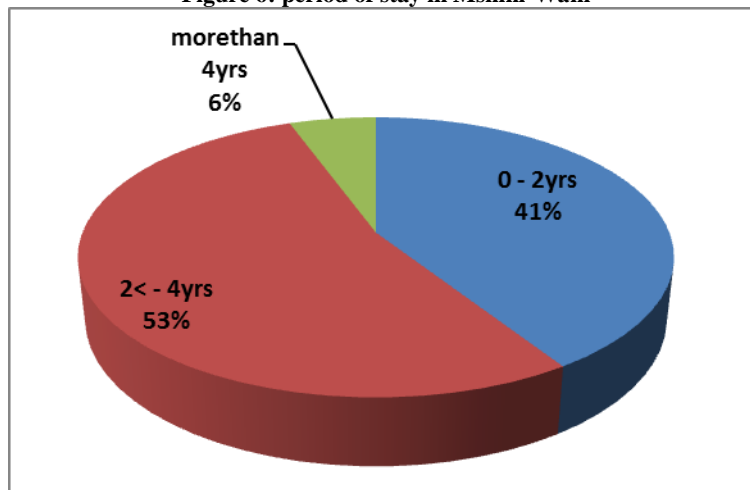
Energy sources

The entire settlement does not have any legal electricity connection hence the community uses other formas of energy like paraffin and gas. Since the settlement is surrounded by the formal houses, many heads of households have illegal connections of electricity. This electricity however they use it for low current appliances like TV sets, lights and radios. The figure below shows that the settlement relies more on paraffin which is supplimented by illegal connections and gas.

Figure 7: Energy sources
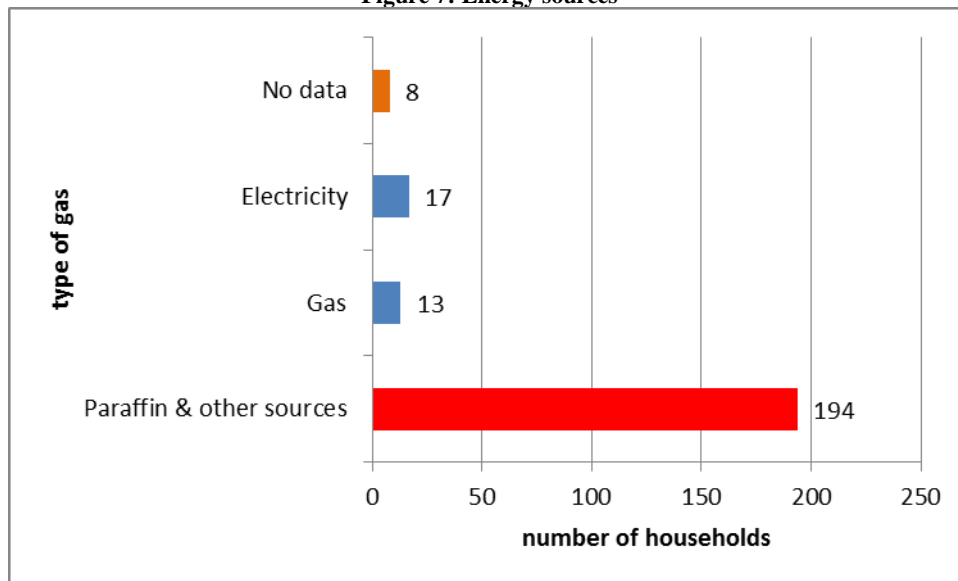
Disasters

Table below shows that the most dominant disaster in the settlement are floods which are a common experience during the winter season. Only 3 households have once experienced a fire disaster during their stay in the settlement. 44 shacks have been subjected to some form of flooding especially dusing the winter season.

Sanitation

As shown on the settlement profile above, the settlement has 16 chemical toilets which were provided by the municipality and are being serviced by the municipality also. These toilets are spread all over the settlement. But in terms of water supply, the settlement has one water tap which supplies all the residents.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION RESOURCE CENTRE (CORC)
MSHINI-WAM ENUMERATION QUESTIONNAIRE

This enumeration survey collects information on housing conditions, expenditures (and income if possible), employment and sanitation in your community. Please co-operate with the enumerator to fill in this questionnaire.

This form asks for the following:

- Basic information about the people who are living in your house
- Specific information about this house and its occupancy
- Specific information about sanitation services and health conditions.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Shack/House Number [   ]   **Date _____/_____/_____**

NAME OF STRUCTURE OWNER:					CONTACT DETAILS:			
FAMILY 1. (OCCUPANTS OF THE STRUCTURE)								
SURNAME	FIRST NAME	FAMILY RELATIONSHIP	AGE	GENDER	RSA NATIONAL ID / OTHER DOCUMENT (STATE NATIONALITY)	OCCUPATION	PREVIOUS RESIDENCE, TOWN, SUBURB,ETC	PRD IN STRUCTURE
		HEAD OF						

		FAMILY					
Family 2							

How many people attend school? **Crèche** ☐ **Primary school** ☐ **Secondary/High School** ☐

Tertiary ☐

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2. Employment, Income & Expense

2.1 How many people are employed in the house?   **1** ☐   **2** ☐   **3** ☐   **4 +** ☐

2.2 What type of employment are they involved in?   How many ☐   How many ☐   How many ☐

Self employed   Part time/Casual   Full Time

If Self employed (Type) :_____

If unemployed list skills (If any):_____

2.3 Do you receive any kind of a welfare grant?   **Yes** ☐   **No** ☐

2.4 What kind of grant do you receive?   Disability ☐   Child support ☐   Pension ☐   Refugee ☐

Other [   ]

2.5 How many people have any form of income in your house?   **1** ☐   **2** ☐   **3** ☐   **4+** ☐

2.6 How much are the main expenses per month?

1. Food	R _____	**2.** Electricity	R _____
3. Transport	R _____	**4.** Rent/Maintenance	R _____
5. School fees	R _____	**6.** Clothing	R _____
	R _____		R _____

7. Water   **8.** Other items

2.7 What type of transport do you use when going to work?   **Private** ☐   **Taxi** ☐   **Bus** ☐   **Train** ☐

2.8 How far is the place of employment (or where the household head gets the income)?

(Hours, Minutes of TRAVEL or WALK)   ____ Hrs ____ min

2.9 How much do you pay per day in transport?   R _____

2.9.1 Where do you do your shopping?   1. _____   2. _____

3. _____   4. _____

_____

3. Nature of house

3.1 Type of house: **Independent Shack** ☐   **Backyard dwelling** ☐

3.2 Use of structure: **Residential only** ☐   **Church** ☐   **Pre –school** ☐

Spaza ☐   **Other** ☐

3.3 What is the size of your house?   ☐ **.** ☐ **MT   X**   ☐ **.** ☐ **MT   [e.g. 3.50 mt x 2.95 mt]**

3.4 How many rooms does your house have?   1 ☐   2 ☐   3 ☐   4 + ☐

3.6 Do you have a title deed of the land?   Yes ☐   No ☐

3.7   Who owns the land?   State ☐   Private ☐

4. Eligibility for Housing Subsidy

4.1 Were you ever approved for a housing subsidy?   **Yes** ☐   **No** ☐

4.2 Would you like to state your income level for the purpose of understanding how many households in the community can apply for subsidies?

R ☐

5. Disaster & Relocation History

5.1 Disaster History

(a) Have you ever experienced the following disasters when staying at **Mshini-Wam** settlement?

(i) Fire Disaster Yes ☐   **No** ☐   **how many times?** ☐

(ii) Flooding   Yes ☐   **No** ☐   **how many times?** ☐

(iii) Evictions   Yes ☐   No ☐   how many times? ☐

6. Sanitation & Health

6.1 Which toilet do you use?   **(i) Pit Toilet** ☐   **How many people use this toilet?**   About _____people

(ii) Water System (Flushed) ☐   **(iii) Bush** ☐

6.2.2 Are there any health facilities in the area   **Yes** ☐   **No** ☐

7. Basic necessities

1 Do you have an electricity   **Yes** ☐   No ☐
Meter in your shelter

ENUMERATOR:_____

NAME OF RESPONDENT   _____

SIGNATURE OF RESPONDENT _____