

Section: Our Projects  
Sub Section: Urban Land  
Title: Participatory Informal Settlement  
Upgrading in South Africa  
Source: UL Team / Practice Brief

**Resources/product name (title):** Participatory Informal Settlement Upgrading in South Africa: moving theory to practice (2014)

**Description:** This practice brief provides an overview of upgrading as an approach to development. This serves not only to highlight the merits of upgrading, as well as key principles such as participation and incrementalism, but also to draw out some of the potential limitations to the successful large-scale implementation of upgrading interventions in South Africa. The practice brief gives particular attention to the South African context – to the historical development of policy frameworks that aim to guide the creation of sustainable human settlements, and to the practice of organisations that have adopted an upgrading agenda in their development work. The practice brief argues in favour of the establishment of communities of practice as platforms for practitioners in the field of informal settlement upgrading to strengthen their practice by leaning from one another, and for feeding into practice at national level through the documentation of tested strategies and methodologies.

**Type:** Practice brief

**Practice area:** Urban land

**Download link:**

**Keywords (filters):** Informal settlement upgrading, community of practice, participation, incrementalism, Khayaletu Initiative, spatial justice