

WHAT DOES A "JUST TRANSITION" MEAN FOR YOU?

Millions of people living in informal settlements experience high risks from climate change. The land they live on can be easily flooded or collapse in mudslides (on steep hills). Low quality housing, made from zinc with not enough ventilation, is less able to resist high winds. Heatwaves (which affect old people and young children most) can feel worse in informal settlements.

DID YOU KNOW



Climate change is caused by many things, like smoke from factories, creating electricity, driving cars and destroying forests. These gases (from burning coal, oil and gas) released into the air have caused our planet to heat up, changing our weather to become more extreme & unpredictable.

Government must play its part in upgrading informal settlements to help reduce vulnerability and increase the resilience of communities to climate change.

People in informal settlements are least responsible for the problem, but they're the ones dealing with its effects, which isn't fair. The poorest people who are vulnerable to pollution and disease because they live in parts of the city where they lack access to water, sanitation (toilets) and electricity also have to cope with the consequences of extreme weather, like flooding, heat stress and drought. It is difficult for people living in informal settlements to protect themselves from these threats the way people in higher income areas can.

DID YOU KNOW



Climate resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt and grow, no matter what kinds of stresses and shocks they experience from climate change.

We need new ideas and solutions to adapt and make smart choices – not only for ourselves, but our children too.

Scientists can tell us what might happen in the future because of a hotter planet, like higher sea levels, floods, heatwaves and droughts. Even though we don't have all the answers yet, we do know that water and electricity are getting more expensive and government is struggling to provide them. Natural resources like water are running out, so making sure everyone has enough will be even more challenging in the future.

Changing our economy: will it be just?

To tackle climate change worldwide and reduce carbon emissions, South Africa is changing (or transitioning) its economy from one based on coal to one using renewable energy. To make sure this change is fair, it must be driven from the ground up. It must result in equal benefits for all, equal say for all, and be able to address existing injustice and inequality for people and for the environment.

DID YOU KNOW



Carbon emissions come from burning fossil fuels like coal, gas and petrol and from making cement. They are part of the greenhouse gases trapping heat and warming up our planet.

In 2023, the government proposed a plan to guide cities on how to plan and build differently, using less concrete and steel in construction, reduce waste and protect natural areas in a way that also addresses spatial and social inequality. This is called the **Just Urban Transition** and upgrading informal settlements is an important part of it. The Just Urban Transition framework agrees that government has to learn to work differently with communities, who must have an equal say in decisions that affect them.

DID YOU KNOW



Renewable energy is produced from sources like the sun, wind and water, which are natural and do not run out. It is also called 'green energy' because it doesn't pollute the air or the water.

What can you do?

shape the process of decision making for upgrading. that the needs of informal settlement communities Your views can influence this process. Make sure Have your say

Think ahead

your children can live and grow. upgrade your settlement into a place where you and long-term improvements you think are necessary to Start thinking and talking about the short-term and

• Get informed

settlements? What has not worked and why? household. What has worked in other informal they mean for your upgrading process and your biogas and eco-friendly building methods and what different places. Learn more about solar power, sharing and learning about what can work in projects. That means we need more information based on what has worked in small-scale, pilot Many of the ideas in the government's plan are

Know your government

government in informal settlements upgrading. responsibilities of national, provincial and local Get to know your municipality and your ward

councillor and learn about the different roles and

and opportunities. next can thrive through access to jobs also to ensure our generation and the change and improve peoples' lives, but only to reduce the impacts of climate upgrading informal settlements, not do more to work with residents in Clearly, government can and must



For example, solar-powered geysers could heat water renewable energy sources like solar and wind. reliable, affordable electricity - this could be through Making sure poorer households have access to

Here are some of the proposals that affect

informal settlement upgrading:

and solar systems can provide energy for lighting,

 Where possible energy, waste and sewerage could be refrigeration, cooking and street lighting.

could be responsible for handling and recycling locally managed. For example, community services

waste and waste pickers could be employed.

constructed using eco-friendly materials instead · Quality homes and other buildings could be

created and skills transferred. warm in winter. In this process local jobs could be insulation to keep buildings cool in heatwaves and more energy-efficient by installing ceilings to increase upgrading could be to make sure that all buildings are of zinc panels and concrete foundations. A focus of

prevent fires (fire retardant). All structures could be painted with special paint to

Community-based upgrading plans for climate

resilience as well as community-based data would

play vital roles.

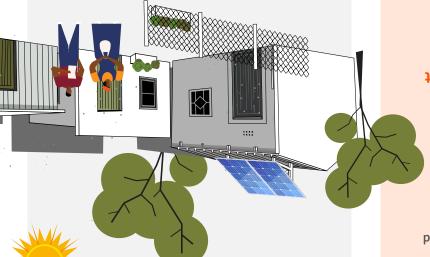
DID YOU KNOW

buildings use less energy to heat up and cool down. energy to produce the same result. Energy efficient Something is energy-efficient if it uses less

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mud bricks and straw. harmful methods. Some examples are sandbags, environment. They are produced using no or less to have little or no damaging effect on the Eco-friendly building materials are designed





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and men who live in informal settlements. transition" and by the experiences of the women that is informed by the principles of a "just approach to informal settlement upgrading for Local Initiatives. It seeks to co-create an

CELI/FCIL

This project is funded by the Canada Fund

transition will not be just. settlements do not change, the if the realities of people in informal the just urban transition. Because, settlement upgrading as part of government prioritises informal Now is the time to make sure that