

COMPACT formally introduced its programme of action to its 12 partner municipalities across South Africa during October and December 2022.

At each visit, action research was conducted where individual and focus group interviews were held with 373 interviewees; Mayors, Speakers, Municipal Managers, ward (and PR) councillors, senior managers, officials and ward committee members.

Preliminary research findings

- The COMPACT project's action research initiative was most welcomed by municipalities and stakeholders are eager to improve participation in planning and its subsequent oversight.
- Ward committees are an important interface between the municipality and communities and where ward committee members require more training and capacity-building.
- Participation in the IDP cycle is a compliance exercise in some municipalities and is lacking in process and substance.
- Lack of implementation of projects creates fatigue, anger and distrust in communities which affects the IDP process.
- Departments are working in silos and there is tension between officials and politicians over service delivery.
- IDP best practice exists across partner municipalities in terms of: public participation meetings, ward committee meetings, the use of technology for participation and the institutionalisation of ward committee action sheets.
- There needs to be more work done to bring the youth into participation processes.

	Municipality	Dates	Place	Interviewees
1	Oudtshoorn LM	10-11 Oct 2022	Oudtshoorn	18
2	Witzenberg LM	13-14 Oct 2022	Ceres	19
3	JB Marks LM	18-19 Oct 2022	Potchefstroom	35
4	Moses Kotane LM	20-21 Oct 2022	Mogwase	62
5	Sol Plaatje LM	24-25 Oct 2022	Kimberley	52
6	Emthanjeni LM	27-28 Oct 2022	De Aar	22
7	Matjhabeng LM	1-2 Nov 2022	Welkom	44
8	Tswelopele LM	3-4 Nov 2022	Bultfontein	20
9	Kouga LM	10-11 Nov 2022	Jeffrey's Bay	32
10	Newcastle LM	23-24 Nov 2022	Newcastle	18
11	City of Umhlatuze	29-30 Nov 2022	Richard's Bay	15
12	Blue Crane Route LM	7-8 Dec 2022	Somerset East	36



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