



As COMPACT'S primary objective is to enhance public participation, citizen engagement workshops were held in each of the 12 COMPACT partner municipalities. These interactive workshops formed part of Phase 2 of the action research (see Factsheet 2) and participants included representatives from civil society organisations (CSOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), community leaders and ward committee members.

Purpose of the workshops

- Gain insight from community representatives on planning and public participation within their municipalities.
- Strengthen the findings and recommendations of the COMPACT reports to improve public participation.
- Collectively consider tools for enhancement of public participation to be included in the COMPACT Toolbox.

Attendance

In total, 262 participants attended the workshops. On average 65% were women and 35% were men (with one non-binary participant). 21% of the participants were young people.

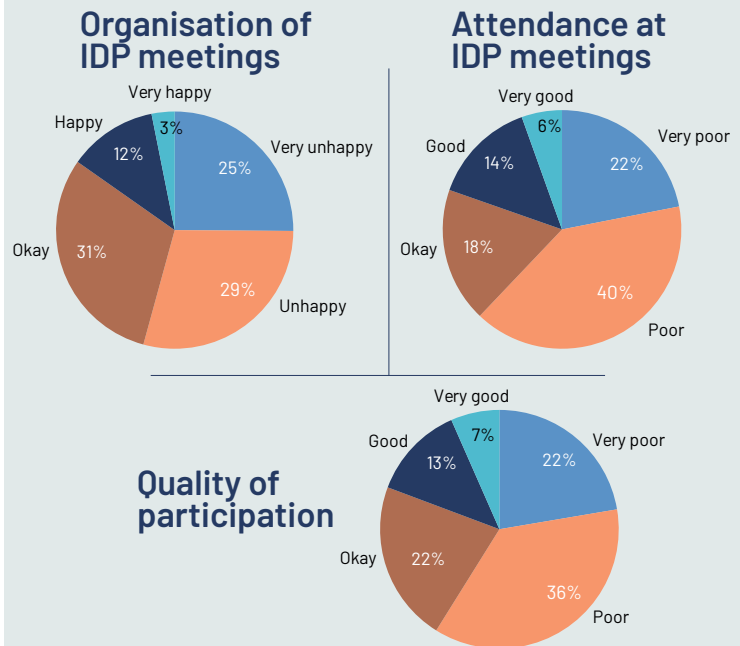
Province	Municipality	Date	Participants
Free State	Tswelopele Local Municipality	26 Oct 2023	26
	Matjhabeng Local Municipality	5 Mar 2024	18
Western Cape	Oudtshoorn Local Municipality	31 Oct 2023	24
	Witzenberg Local Municipality	8 Mar 2024	14
Eastern Cape	Kouga Local Municipality	8 Nov 2023	29
	Blue Crane Route Local Municipality	10 Nov 2023	30
KwaZulu-Natal	Newcastle Local Municipality	14 Nov 2023	14
	City of Umhlatuze	27 Feb 2024	21
Northern Cape	Sol Plaatje Local Municipality	21 Nov 2023	24
	Emthanjeni Local Municipality	23 Nov 2023	12
North West	JB Marks Local Municipality	29 Nov 2023	23
	Moses Kotane Local Municipality	6 Dec 2023	27
Total # of participants			262

Findings

In general, the findings from the workshops emphasised the following:

- There is inadequate participation of communities, CSOs and CBOs in municipal planning across municipalities. A recommendation was made for increased civil society involvement in public participation.
- The lack of communication between municipal political office-bearers and the administration to communities is a major problem, and community members are very frustrated at poor service delivery and municipal performance.
- The IDP participation process is not working in most municipalities, and community members and CSOs feel they are not being engaged effectively. Issues include the organisation of IDP meetings, attendance at meetings, quality of participation and the involvement of key stakeholders (see the graphs on the views of community members across the 12 partner municipalities).

The findings from both phases of the action research have been incorporated into the 12 individual municipal reports, as well as a consolidated technical findings report, to establish a comprehensive baseline for the COMPACT project and the partner municipalities. Tools for enhancing planning and participation are being developed based on the findings.



PARTNERS



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