



Covid diaries

Virtual exhibition launch

22nd September 2022

Photo from SLF project 'The Heart of the Matter'

Challenges and impacts of participatory visual methods for research engagement



Congested shacks

Photo by Zolelwa Mabandla

Photovoice, 2021

Project: 'Water and Fire'

Overcome Heights, an informal settlement in Cape Town

Participatory visual methods

- support two-way communication
- promote more balanced interaction between community members research teams and government representatives

Examples of PVM

- Theatre
- Digital storytelling
- Photography (photovoice)
- Collective filmmaking (PV)
- Mapping methods
 - community mapping
 - body mapping
 - hand mapping



Residents of a township with high levels of heart disease present photographs that they took through a photovoice activity to engage with a team of cardiovascular disease researchers from Stellenbosch University on the topic of food choices and diet.
Project: 'The Heart of the Matter' (2016)

Participatory visual methods drive the creative expression of lived experience, which can heighten vulnerability.

Point of learning

focus interactive activities on topics that help to level the ground and dilute power dynamics between researchers and community members, especially when they are first introduced to each other in a research engagement activity.



A young woman presenting her food map to community participants and researchers.
Project: 'The Heart of the Matter' (2016)

*Steps Toward
Engagement Integrity:
Learning From
Participatory Visual
Methods in Marginalized
South African
Communities*
Black G. and Sykes P.

Frontiers in Public Health
Health Education and
Promotion
June 2022



Professor Wesaal Khan, Water Resource Lab, Stellenbosch University, shares her hand map with residents of Enkanini informal settlement. Each member of the research team drew a hand map and used the five fingers on their drawing as pointers to describe the five main factors that had influenced their decision to become a water microbiologist.
Project: 'Bucket Loads of Health' (2018)

Participatory visual methods

a challenge is the number of participants that can be involved in a visual methods process.

Considerations

- Group size
- Venue (space requirements)
- Time
- Equipment and accessories
- Training
- Technical expertise
- Cost
- Stipends



Residents of Enkanini informal settlement creating **body maps** to illustrate their **embodied experiences** of water shortage and poor water quality.

Body maps were used as materials to engage with water microbiologists who were doing research on water in Enkanini. Project: 'Bucket Loads of Health' (2018)

Participatory visual methods

Who is included in these inclusive engagement approaches?

Representation

- Concerned about the research topic
- Age
- Gender
- Race, culture, language groups
- Representation from different areas of a research setting
- Availability for participation



An aerial view of Roosendaal in Delft, just one of many residential areas in the township. Delft has a population of at least 120 000. Engaging in this setting for over a decade has allowed SLF to grow and strengthen the network of people we work with in this very large 'community'.



Inclusion in research engagement can be **extended** through the **sharing** of visual materials by the people that created them with **multiple audiences**.

Water and Fire: Enhancing Capacity and Reducing Risk through 15 'Best Bets' for Transformative Adaptation with Vulnerable Residents on the Cape Flats

Main thematic areas:

- Environmental disaster risk management
- Resilience

Overarching aim:

To generate a series of **community-driven potential interventions** (Best Bets) to counteract the impacts of flooding, fire and water shortage in highly marginalized settings such as informal settlements.



Inclusion in research engagement can be extended through sharing and discussing materials created in a visual methods process with multiple audiences.



Addressing the impacts of flooding

Who is responsible?

- Community
- Government
- Community and government

Participants in a multi-layered visual methods research project presented digital stories, photographs and community maps to engage a range of stakeholders, including local government representatives, in the research topics of environmental disaster risk management and resilience. In addition to the core participants, over 40 residents from Sweet Home Farm attended.

Project: Water and Fire (2019 – 2022)

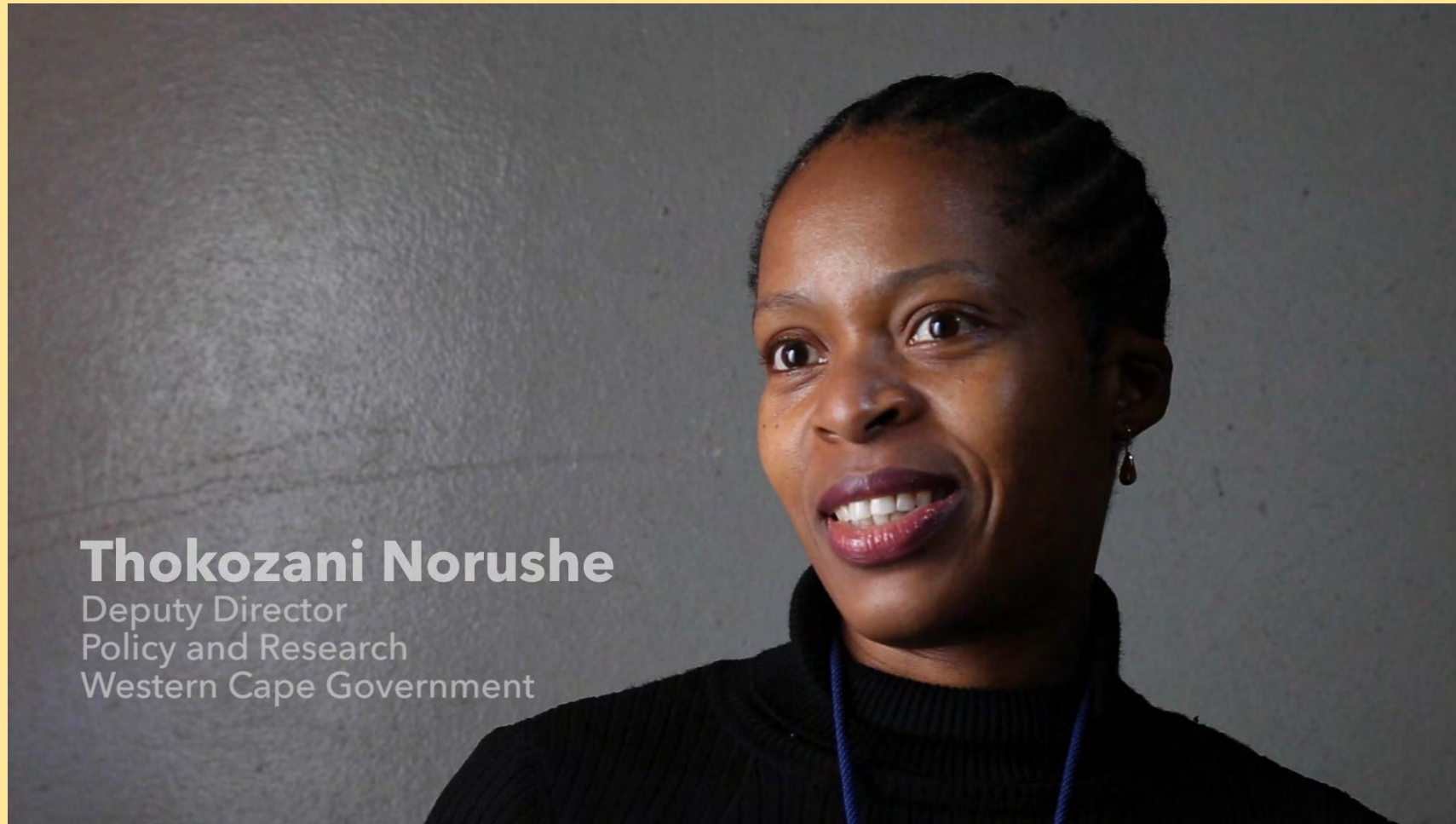


“Here today I heard testimonies of lived experiences. What it means to go one day without water. What does it mean for a chronically ill grandmother who needs to take medication. That’s life-threatening. To hear that, it shifts the narrative. You start **seeing** that provision of water is indeed a human right to life”.



**Ms Shehnaz
Cassim Moosa**
Resilience Analyst
City of Cape Town

“There’s such a lot of energy at these sessions and a group of people who want to positively affect society and I think that’s amazing... and it’s also given me a sense of hope”.



Thokozani Norushe

Deputy Director
Policy and Research
Western Cape Government

“I think with greater participation in meetings with the City (local government) in calling for ministers and other powerful politicians to sit with them, I think you’ll find that people become more confident in the way they engage with powerful structures.”



Yusuf Mohamed

Transversal Civil Engineer
Exec. Technical Support Officer
Water and Sanitation, City of Cape Town

“What I’ve experienced here is enlightening. Listening to the whole video that the women presented through pictures. It’s giving us real data on the ground. We want to do more but I think it’s just for the community to understand the City’s (local government) challenges so that there can be a constructive dialogue between us.”



Lynn Worship

Asst. Disaster Management Officer
Public Awareness, Education and
Preparedness, City of Cape Town

“What has been done in this community is incredible. I would love to be part of it as far as I can. So that we can action these plans that these community members have put together and we are in par with what they have said”.

THE PRACTICE AND ETHICS
OF PARTICIPATORY VISUAL METHODS
FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SCIENCE

BY GILL BLACK AND MARY CHAMBERS
WITH CONTRIBUTIONS ON METHODS
FROM ALUN DAVIES AND SONIA LEWYCKA



Available via the Global Health Network

https://media.tghn.org/medialibrary/2019/11/PVM_handbook_v2_.pdf

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Acknowledgements

All of the community members from Delft, Enkanini, Overcome Heights and Sweet Home farm and all of the researchers who have taken part in our health science engagement projects.

Wellcome for funding the 'Heart of the Matter' and 'Bucket Loads of Health'.

UKRI GCRF for funding 'Water and Fire' – co-led with the University of Stirling

My colleagues at the Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation