

## **Progress report**

### **Project rationale**

Many under-resourced communities are continuously faced with extreme weather conditions due to climate change. Studies have shown that changes in climatic conditions have negative impact on people's lives especially those residing in under-resourced settings.

Inanda community in Durban KwaZulu Natal is no exception, evidently, May 2022 floods that killed over 1000 people and left many displaced, is one of the recent extreme weather events that left a harmful experience in many people of this community.

This Public Engagement mini project aims to work with the community of Inanda in collaboration with DEEP INK locally based organization where we will identify potential participants and hold knowledge workshops to explore issues of climate and health reflecting on the recent extreme weather events experiences, learnings and challenges faced.

<b>Project name</b>	Climate and Health Knowledge Exchange project
<b>Project status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Date of event</b>	17/12/2024
<b>Responsible person</b>	Luthando Zuma
<b>Collaboration/partnership</b>	DEEP INK

<b>Activity summary list of tasks completed</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Obtained permit from the ward Councillor to use the venue.</li><li>• Finalised workshop venue and the date.</li><li>• Held three monthly meetings to discuss the project. This included different stakeholders from DEEP INK (a locally based organisation that works with different health challenges within the INK area), Office of the Ward Councillor, and Environmental Health Practitioner.</li><li>• Extensive talks about the project with Professor Collins Iwuji who is leading multi climate and health project to seek advises and how this project can influence future solutions and embedding public engagement in research projects.</li><li>• We discovered that no gate keeper's processes are needed for such public engagement project since it will be a volunteer open dialogue with communities.</li><li>• Identified 15 potential participants from the community that were affected by 2022 floods.</li><li>• Attended two Operation Sukuma Sakhe community meetings to announce the project, plans and get local authorities' perspectives.</li></ul>

- Collaborated with Climate and Health Scientist for first open dialogue with the members of the community to discuss issues of Climate and Health, experiences of 2022 floods, knowledge and perspectives of climate change.



### Challenges and obstacles

- Postponed workshop due safety reasons.
- Political instabilities in the area.
- Competing times with project period, school exams and closing for festive holidays.

### Goals planned for next month

- Increase partnership with local authorities to make the access process safer and smoother.
- Have two meeting in the first two weeks of January 2025.
- Contact identified participants first week of January 2025 to keep them up to date with the project and increase enthusiasm to the project.
- Have final engagement workshop collaborating with Climate and Health Scientist for panel discussion.
- Write a full project report.

- Begin social media for mutual learning on climate and health.

#### **Impact to the community and future significance of this project**

- This project has a potentially to improve people's knowledge about climate and health.
- Unify communities by sharing experiences on previous extreme weather conditions and its impacts.
- Educate both communities and health professionals.
- Explore innovative ways and strategies for community participation in projects and identify ongoing gaps in knowledge
- Give insight on what challenges under resourced communities are facing when it comes to climate and health.
- Make community voices heard.
- Possibly, inform bigger climate and health community-based project.

Compile by: Luthando Zuma