

Document: End project report	Project: Climate and Health Knowledge exchange project	Author: Luthando Zuma Cell: 074 994 1730 Email: luthando.zuma@ahri.org luh.zuma@gamil.com	Date: 03/02/2025
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1. Project Leader's report

Planning monthly meetings with DEEP INK the local NPO and the ward councillor were held to discuss the project. We obtained permission from the ward Councillor to utilise the venue for the duration of the project and to finalise workshop venue and the dates. Monthly meetings 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. 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. We identified 15 potential participants from the community that were affected by 2022 floods but ended up having a total of 22 participants due to high interest from other community members. Operation Sukuma Sakhe community meetings were attended to announce the project, plans and get local authorities' perspectives.

We faced some challenges along the way which caused delays to the deliveries of the project, and they were discussed with the partners involved and they were resolved.

2. Project review

The project was delivered according to the plans with minor changes in time and period due to issues that we needed to address before we commence with project. The project was aligning with the current issues of climate and health faced by the communities of the INK area. Different stakeholders from different professions including the main stakeholder which is community were highly involved in the engagement workshops sharing different ideas and experiences in the topic of climate change and health intersection.

3. Engagement workshops

Dates and venue:

The first engagement workshop took place on the 3rd of December 2024 in Ntuzuma B Hall which was done in collaboration with DEEP INK Organisation, Environmental Health Practitioner Ms Simamile Sikhakhane and

Professor Collins Iwuji a Scientist conducting climate and health project within INK area. The assessment and inspection of the venue was done a day before to ensure compliance with health and safety standards. Each workshop was opened with an ice breaker that tested communication skills and required participants to line up in alphabetical order without talking to each other.

The ward councillor Mrs Mafi Zondi welcomed us in each workshop session to officialise the workshop.

Team:

The members of the climate and health team were Mr Luthando Zuma (Project Leader), Simamile Sikhakhane (Environmental Health Practitioner), Professor Collins Iwuji (Scientist), Dr Sithembiso Ndlovu (Social Scientist), Nokulunga Malinga (Director of DEEP INK) and we were welcomed by Mrs Mafi Zondi a ward councillor.

4. Review of knowledge exchange workshops

- A total 33 participants for the entire project were obtained which increased the quality of engagement workshops gaining perspectives from both young people and elderly people.
- We were satisfied with the selected participants as they brought in their experiences and perspectives about climate and health intersection.
- Materials like pens, rim papers, drawing board, markers, refreshments were enough.

Team performance: All team members played a vital role in the success of the project and they spent enough time preparing, engaging and educating, and learning during the project. We worked as a collective to address challenges and came up with solutions to achieve the desired goals.

5. Participants

The first knowledge exchange workshop was attended by 11 community members of Inanda and Ntuzuma township, Professor Collins Iwuji, Simamile Sikhakhane, Nokulunga Malinga and Luthando Zuma. The community members attended were a mixture of young people and elderly people who have previously experienced extreme weather events and been displaced in the past due to flooding. The first workshop was designed in a form of open dialogue between the team and the community to allow an exchange in experiences and knowledge of climate and health intersections. We distributed refreshments at the end. Pens, rim papers, markers were prepared and given to all participants.

Second workshop was attended by a total of 22 community members, Dr Sithembiso Ndlovu, Nokulunga Malinga, Simamile Sikhakhane, and the ward councillor. This engagement focused more on climate and health intersection, the role of community engagement in research project, the importance of community involvement in

research, sense of ownership, environmental health, pollution that's contributes to climate change and environmental risk, share of experiences, and lessons learnt from the previous engagement.

Participants were supplied with pens, rim papers, markers and they were splits into two groups for fun activity where they were expected to choose and create one word between Climate and Health each person using one letter and they were given 40 seconds. Refreshments were distributed at the end.

6. Review of the objectives

Targets:

- Time: 5 months
- Scope: 100% as defined
- Quality: High
- Risks: Low
- Benefits: High

Strategies:

- Communications: Ver effective
- Engagements: Effective
- Design: Effective
- Quality: Effective
- Risk: Low (risk assessment was conducted prior to the commencement of workshops)

7. Out-comes of the workshops and recommendations

- Participants expressed that they have gained an extensive amount of information from these workshops, and they are now aware of the contributions they make towards climate change, pollution and environmental risks factors.
- They are now aware of the intersections between climate and health and the role of community engagement in research projects.
- Unify communities by sharing experiences on previous extreme weather conditions and its impacts.
- Educate both communities and health professionals and the importance of co-development.
- 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.

Community members also suggested that:

- They should establish a community advisory board that look into climate change projects and other related health and social issues.
- Create more opportunities for local based NPOs like DEEP INK to conduct community-based projects.

Link to action pictures and videos: [Share](#)