

Technical Support Facility to National Urban Renewal Programme (TSF-URP)



South Africa

February 2007 – June 2009

Client:

European Union and dplg

Promoting inter-governmental cooperation to alleviate poverty and eliminate municipal service backlogs in the most densely populated areas of South Africa

In February 2001 President Thabo Mbeki launched the Urban Renewal Programme (URP), to alleviate poverty in eight urban areas or “nodes”, which represent high concentrations of poverty and are home to more than 10 million people. In these nodes, substantial portions of the population are still not receiving a basic level of service in water, sanitation, housing and energy. In addition, areas targeted by URP are spatially and economically marginalised, and socially excluded.

The URP addresses gross imbalances in levels of development, wealth, income and opportunity, which persist from the apartheid-era. It also confronts more contemporary problems of deepening unemployment and poverty exacerbated by the opening of South Africa to global market forces and the decline of

traditional employment sectors. URP is designed to help improve integration and coordination among South Africa’s three tiers of government, and also to enhance municipal capacity to deliver basic services.

ECIAfrica serves as a partner in a consortium, led by GFA in Germany, providing technical assistance to the National Urban Renewal Unit based in the Department of Provincial and Local Government (dplg) in Pretoria and in the Provincial Unit in Bisho, Eastern Cape province. Under this project, ECIAfrica and the GFA consortium are supporting inter-governmental relations and helping to capture lessons learnt.

