

# 3762 digital addresses for Thembelihle informal settlement

## Promoting Inclusive Democracy for Vulnerable Communities



An inclusive city offers all its citizens a decent quality of life.

In a continued partnership between Planact and Google, 3762 digital addresses have been created by a group of volunteers and leaders from Thembelihle – an informal settlement in Region G of the City of Johannesburg.

The scale up of digital addresses for informal settlements started in September 2022 in Thembelihle following a successful pilot of this project in Skoonplaas, in the City of Ekurhuleni, earlier in 2022.

Volunteers in Thembelihle were trained by Planact staff and equipped with technical skills to generate plus code addresses using Google's Address Maker App - a free Android app that lets governments and NGOs easily create addresses.

With the Address Maker app, volunteers are able to:

- navigate and address properties on the ground
- assign plus codes to roads, streets, alleys and paths
- generate & validate Plus Code addresses for properties
- ensure these addresses work well on Google Maps

Google has generously donated and printed address boards which will be fixed on all 3762 properties. With this innovative technology, local businesses will be optimised on a Google search, emergency services will easily navigate directly to a yard, and Thembelihle will enjoy being part of inclusive city.

Planact has held successful meetings with officials from the City of Joburg: Planning and Community Development Department (responsible for street naming). Discussions are now at an advanced stage on how plus codes can be linked with the City's address system.

Planact has worked with the community of Thembelihle since 2001 to build their community leadership capacity. During the years, Planact has involved the community in advocating for housing, electricity water and sanitation. Together with the community, Planact has conducted social audit on sanitation, monitored municipal budgets and services through the Asivikelane campaign as well as the implementation of digital addresses recently.

The digital addressing project undertaken in both communities, contributes to the objectives of Planact's Responsive Living Environments Programme.



Above: Dominica Masalesa (City of Johannesburg: Street Naming); Mike Makwela (Planact Senior Programme Coordinator and Former Ward 8 Councillor); Godfrey Lebeya.