The next Covid-19 wave will start in informal settlements.

Up to 45% of informal settlement residents contracted the coronavirus in the first wave. This is not surprising because they are sharing dirty taps and toilets. The sharp increase in the number of red traffic lights in Asivikelane 11 makes us worry that the second wave of infections will start and spread in informal settlements. Inadequate access to water is growing, with residents in Cape Town, for example, reporting that water trucks have stopped delivering water. There are also still residents who do not have access to water at all. More residents in Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg, and Cape Town report that their toilets have not been cleaned.

The pandemic aside, academic research shows that informal settlements have higher levels of infectious diseases, respiratory diseases, diarrhoea, waterborne diseases, TB, malnutrition, and stunting. This is largely because of inadequate basic services. The pandemic has increased the urgency to address this challenge.

683 residents from 217 settlements responded over the last week. Detailed results and comments from residents themselves are available at: www.internationalbudget.org/covid-monitoring/