More than half of the Western Cape’s Covid-19 infections are found in Cape Town neighbourhoods that contain informal settlements. Informal settlements are hotspots for infection because they don’t have enough taps and toilets, and these communal facilities are not cleaned often enough. We don’t have comparable statistics for other cities, but the conditions in informal settlements elsewhere in the country are similar. Ballooning infection rates in Gauteng, the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal could therefore also be reduced by cleaning and providing more taps and toilets. While all metros have responded to the immediate crisis, Asivikelane results point to longer term service challenges. Most metros have made progress with the provision of clean water. However, when we asked residents in the past week if there was enough water for all residents, the results revealed persistent problems. Cape Town and eThekwini are also still not doing enough to clean communal toilets. Broken toilets and taps also remain a problem in most metros.

Based on City of Cape Town Covid-19 cases as at 10 July 2020

In metros, 86% of residents said they have a mask, which has been identified as an important measure in preventing the spread of Covid-19. However, almost 80% of residents indicated that they do not have enough soap or hand-sanitiser. Combined with inadequate access to water in Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni and Cape Town, this means that many residents can’t wash their hands regularly.

In metros, 86% of residents said yes
Nationally, 20% of residents said yes

86% of residents in metros said yes
Nationally, 86% of residents said yes

21% of residents in metros said yes
Nationally, 20% of residents said yes

For more information contact: info@internationalbudget.org twitter: @ibp_sa facebook: internationalbudgetpartnershipsouthafrica

Detailed results and comments from residents themselves are available at: www.internationalbudget.org/covid-monitoring/