



SERVICE DELIVERY PARTY

A PLAN FOR OUR TOWNSHIPS

# Our townships keep growing. Where is the plan?

**WerkBase** is a plan to bring dignity to our most impoverished communities through community development and active participation.

**SDP challenges anyone to produce a superior plan.**

## THE PROBLEM

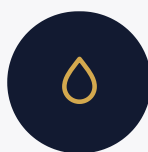
# Waiting is not a plan.

Every year more families make a home on the edge of our cities. They carry water. They queue for a toilet. They walk home in the dark.

Many have no hot water to wash with and no safe place for children to play. Ask who has a plan for these communities in the years before a new housing project arrives. Most answers are promises. Very few are plans.

**Long queues**

Too many people sharing too few toilets.

**No hot water**

Washing safely is a daily struggle.

**Dark streets**

No lighting means no safety after sunset.

**Nowhere to play**

Children and young people have no safe space.

*A community does not become a neighbourhood simply because houses are built.*

A real plan answers three questions.

**FIRST**

What happens first?

**SECOND**

Who does it?

**THIRD**

How does it grow?

**WerkBase answers all three.** The next pages show how.

## THE IDEA

# What is WerkBase?

WerkBase is a concept to expand dignity to our most impoverished areas through community development and active participation.



Artist's impression

1

## Start with dignity

Clean toilets, clean water, hot showers and light. The basics every person is owed.

2

## Build with the community

Residents help choose the site, run it and look after it. Local people are trained and hired.

3

## Grow step by step

A safe square. A sports court. Small businesses. Better homes. Each step comes when the neighbourhood is ready.

## In plain words

WerkBase is the way of working. A **WerkNode** is the first thing you see on the ground: a sturdy, ready-built unit that arrives with toilets, hot water and light. The units are made to fit together. The same design can later become a bakery, a spaza shop, a laundry or a learning hub.

*Start with what people need most.*  
**Deliver it well. Build from there.**

## THE JOURNEY

# From one container to a thriving neighbourhood

## WERKNODE®

ONE PLATFORM. FOUR STAGES. LASTING IMPACT.

From a single container to a thriving community hub.

 CLEAN ENERGY

 CLEAN WATER

 SAFE COMMUNITIES

 LOCAL JOBS

**1** STAGE 1  
**SANITATION NODE**  
DIGNITY FIRST.



A clean, safe sanitation container with solar power and water.

- Toilets & handwashing
- Clean water supply
- Solar power
- Secure & lockable

**2** STAGE 2  
**QUAD DEVELOPMENT**  
A PLACE TO GATHER.



The container stays. The community space grows.

- Paved public space
- Seating & shade
- Lighting
- Noticeboard & PA system

**3** STAGE 3  
**SPORTS + COMMUNITY**  
SAFE PLAY. STRONGER YOUTH.



The quad comes alive with sports, safety and activity.

- Multi-sport court
- CCTV & security
- Community programs
- LEAP / SAPS presence

**4** STAGE 4  
**FULL WERKNODE**  
SERVICES. JOBS. DIGNITY. OPPORTUNITY.



A fully integrated hub with clean energy, water, food, learning and jobs.

- Solar canopy & battery storage
- Kestrel wind turbine
- Rainwater harvesting
- Biodigester (biogas)

- Spaza shop
- Bakery / food
- Laundry
- Learning hub
- CCTV & security



**SAME MOTHERBOARD CHASSIS.**  
Different cartridges.  
Endless possibilities.

**IT STARTS WITH ONE.**  
BUILDS THROUGH COMMUNITY.  
GROWS FOR GENERATIONS.

*Real solutions.  
Lasting change.*



Artist's impression

**1 DIGNITY**

Toilets, hot water, clean water, light

**2 COMMUNITY**

A safe, active public square

**3 OPPORTUNITY**

Sport, learning and programmes for youth

**4 PROSPERITY**

Local shops, businesses and jobs

**5 UPGRADE**

Better homes and a better neighbourhood

Four stages appear on the ground. A fifth runs alongside them: the steady upgrading of the homes around the site. **One node can become a neighbourhood.**

## STEP ONE: DIGNITY

# Start with a toilet. Add hot water.



Artist's impression

For a family without reliable services these are not small extras. They shape health, safety and dignity every day. A safe place to shower means a child can go to school clean, a worker can start the day with pride and an elderly person can wash safely.

1

## Sun first

Covered, angled water tanks heat water from the sun for safe public showers.

2

## Biogas back-up

On cold or cloudy days, gas made from organic waste can heat the water where feasible.

3

## Pilot, learn, improve

Start at a few suitable sites. Measure performance, safety and cost. Listen to residents and refine.

This is an interim pilot for communities not yet connected to the grid. The goal is simple: **clean showers, healthier communities, greater dignity.**

## SANITATION

# Safe sanitation is a ladder, not one product

Different places need different answers. The right solution for a crowded settlement is not the right one for a few households on open land.



*Artist's impression*

- 1 Emergency and temporary.** Chemical toilets and mobile units. Quick to deploy, with a clear plan to move up.
- 2 Dry and urine-diverting.** Suits households and small groups. Little or no water needed.
- 3 Double-vault composting.** Suits busier shared areas. Vaults take turns and the toilet never stops working.
- 4 Treatment close to home.** Toilet blocks linked to compact on-site treatment that cleans water for reuse. No sewer needed.
- 5 Conventional sewerage.** Where density and geography make it affordable and practical.

## Why it works

- Less reliance on tankers and sewer networks
- Waste treated at or near the source
- Water and nutrients recovered for reuse
- Built to keep working in every season
- Designed for reliability, not perfection

**The aim:** the right rung for each place and a clear path up to the next one.

## STEPS TWO AND THREE: COMMUNITY

# A place to gather. A place to play.

People have always needed a shared space at the heart of community life. The Greek agora, the Roman forum and the English common are the same idea.

With the first services working, the next investment is not another building. It is space. WerkBase calls it the **Quad**.

- A safe, paved public space
- Lighting at night
- Seating and shade
- Community noticeboards
- Water and sanitation
- CCTV and other safety measures
- Room for meetings, markets and activities



Artist's impression

The aim is not to beautify a place. It is to create somewhere people have a reason to use.

*Sport gives young people somewhere to go.*  
**It gives the whole community a reason to protect the space.**

The Quad then grows into a place for activity. A multi-purpose court can host football, five-a-side and basketball. Sport builds routine, teamwork and discipline. Working with the police and community safety teams helps keep the space safe for everyone. The infrastructure grows as the use of the space grows.

Toilets



Quad



Sport



Community

## STEP FOUR: PROSPERITY

# Create work close to home.



Artist's impression

With the space working as a community square, local business can grow around its edge. The ready-built units supply power, water and storage to each small enterprise.

- 1 A child comes to play football.
- 2 A parent buys bread.
- 3 Someone collects laundry.
- 4 A young person attends a training session.
- 5 A local entrepreneur opens a small business.

Spaza shop

Bakery

Laundry

Barber

Small food business

Learning and digital

Repairs

Community services

*The aim is not a shopping centre.*  
**It is a local economy where people can earn where they live.**

## STEP FIVE: UPGRADE

# Upgrade the homes. Do not wait for perfect.

The final step does not leave the settlement behind. It improves it, one step at a time. A settlement should not stay poor and unsafe until the day a completely new housing development arrives.

**1 Sanitation first**

**2 Public space**

**3 Safety**

**4 Sport**

**5 Enterprise**

**6 Household infrastructure**

**7 Housing**



*Artist's impression*

**The neighbourhood grows while people are still living in it.**

## ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

## Built with people, not for them.

### Ready and willing

WerkBase goes where a community wants it and is ready for it.

### Residents decide

People who live there help choose the site and how the space is used.

### Local jobs

Local people are trained, hired and trusted to run and care for it.

## OUR CHALLENGE

# Think you have a better plan?

## Show us.

We have not seen a plan for our growing townships that people can see, touch and judge. WerkBase is ours. It is practical, it grows step by step and it is built with communities.

**SDP challenges anyone** in government, business or civil society to produce a superior plan. Put it next to ours and let communities decide.

### Test any plan with four questions

- 1 Does it start with what people need most?
- 2 Does it deliver in months rather than decades?
- 3 Does it grow as the community grows?
- 4 Does it put residents at the centre?

A plan that passes all four is one we want to see. Tell us where your neighbourhood needs to start.

**sd-p.org**

**#mustismust**

Images are artist's impressions of what WerkBase could look like.