

# Upgrading dense informal settlements in Africa: realising their potential?

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Human Sciences Research Council

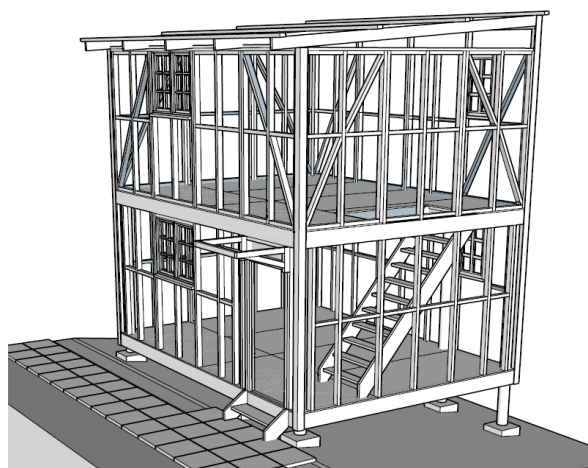


**IED**

Inclusive Economic Development



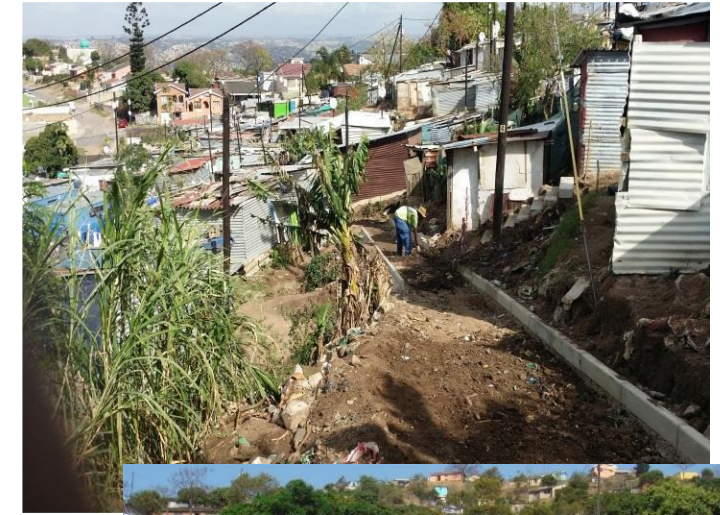
Advancing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 in Africa



Conventional housing?



In situ services?



Goal: make dense informal settlements liveable  
*What is feasible? What are the priorities?*





# Research Partners

- **Case studies in Angola (Luanda) and South Africa (eThekweni)**
- 3 Main Partners
- Human Sciences Research Council (Academic – multidisciplinary)
- Project Preparation Trust (NPO – informal settlement upgrading specialists)
- Development Workshop: Angola (NPO – urbanists, community upliftment)



**HSRC**  
Human Sciences  
Research Council



**Project Preparation Trust**  
est 1993



**DEVELOPMENT  
WORKSHOP**



# Haphazard urban form!

(Covid-19 also highlighted this)

Parkington, eThekwni, South Africa

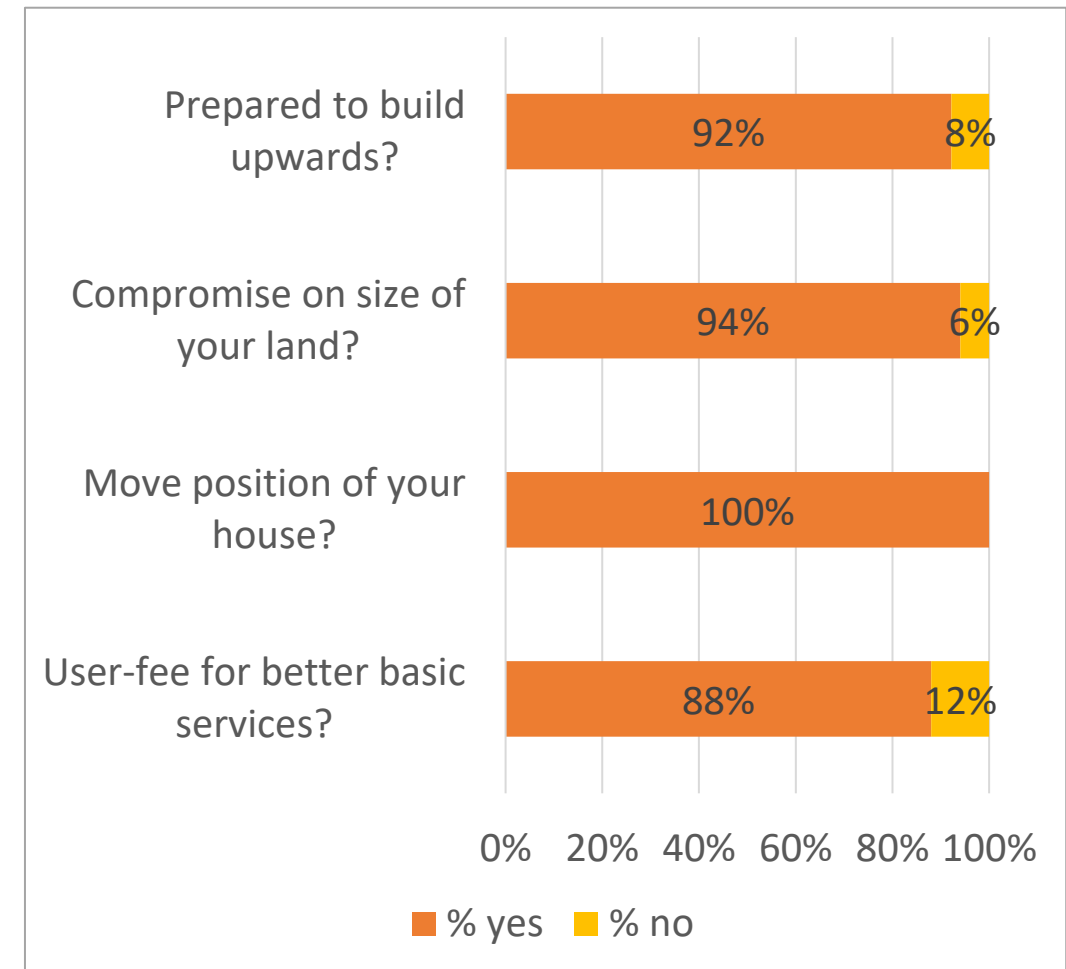
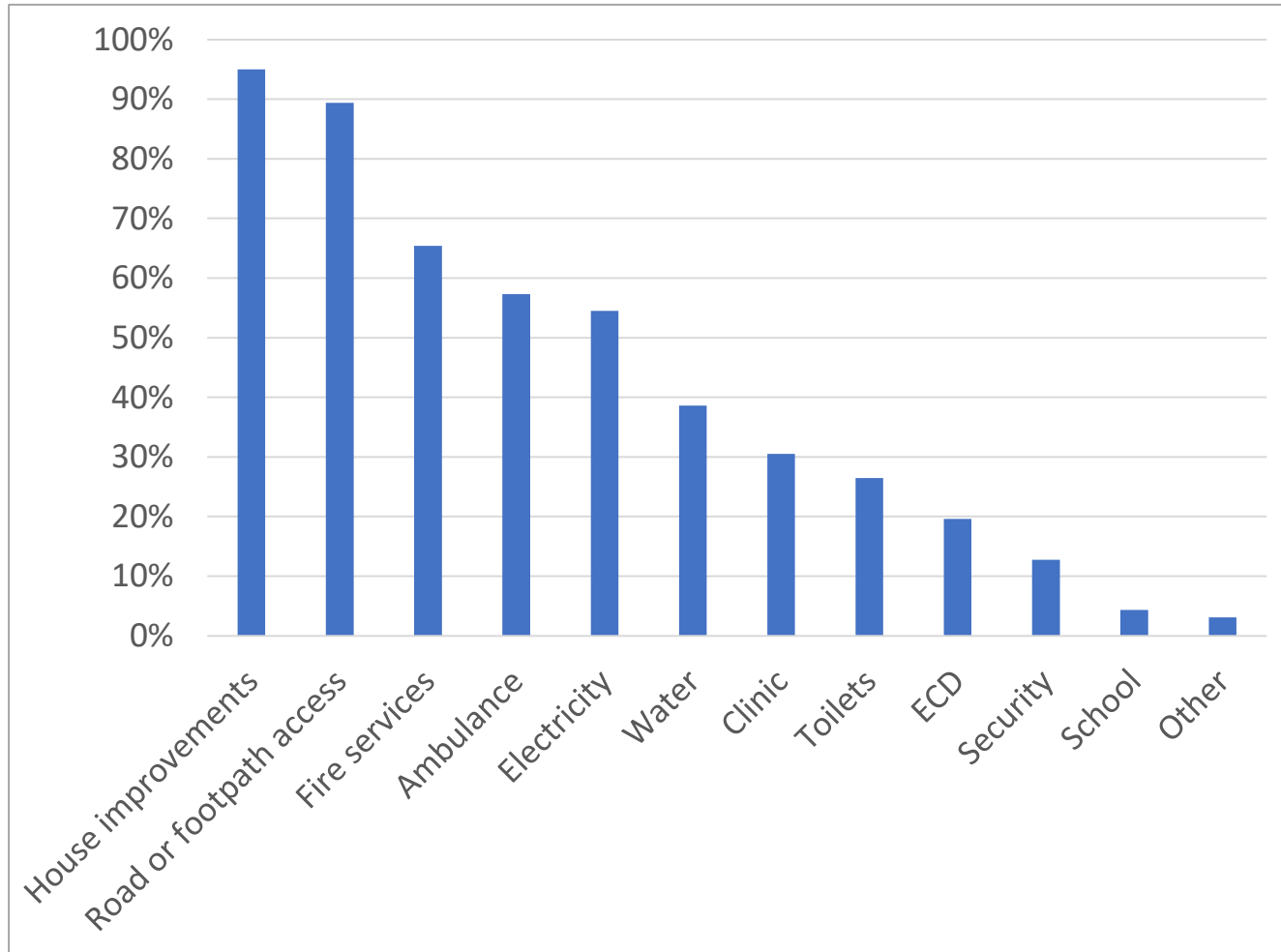


Marconi, Luanda, Angola



	Parkington	Hillbrow (CBD Jo'burg)
Total area (hectares)	2.1	108
Total population	1 006	74 131
Persons per hectare	470	686
Floor space per person (m <sup>2</sup> )	7.9	21.9

# Top upgrading priorities





# Can we envision an alternative future?

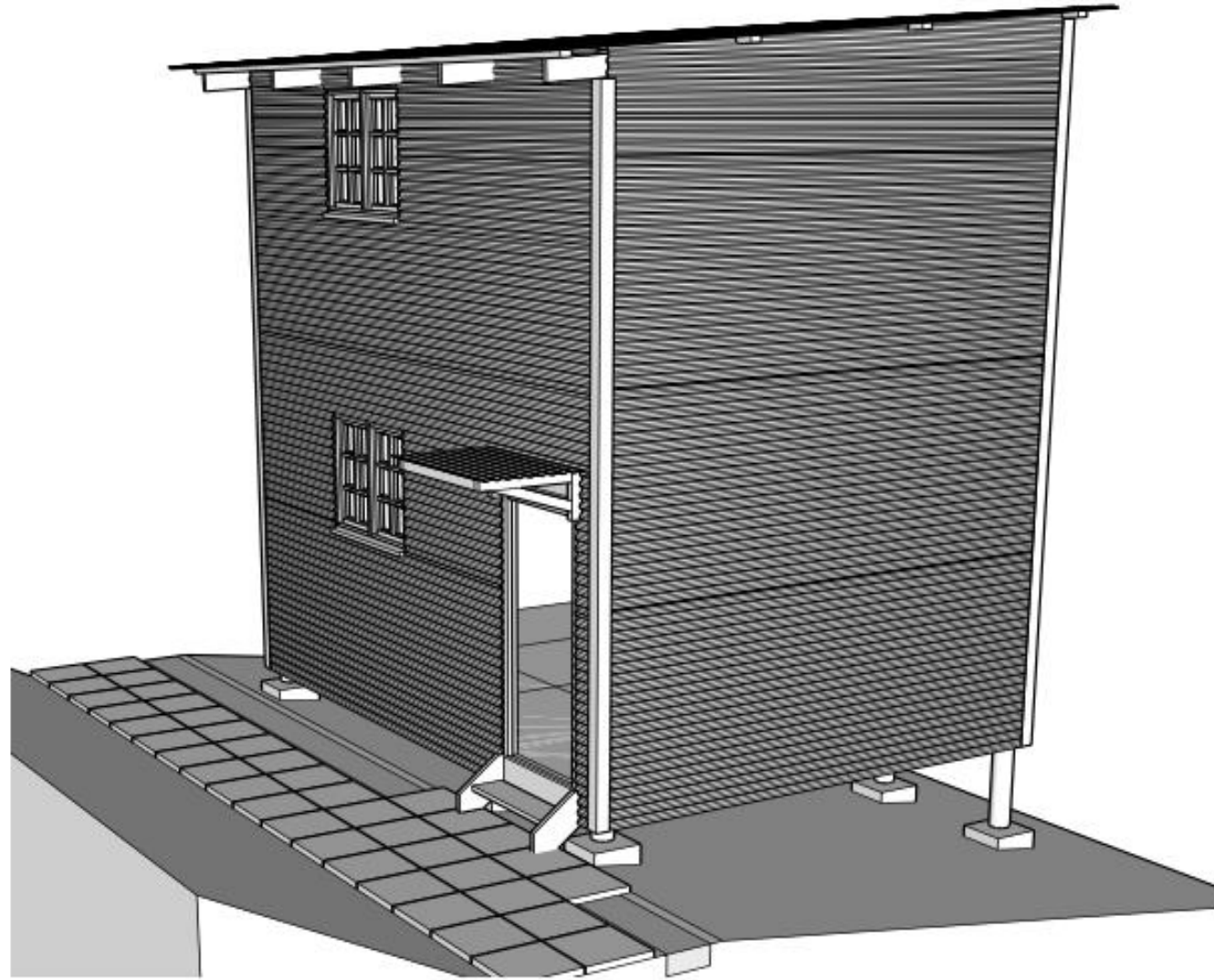
## SERVICE GRID NB- Building upwards to create space!

- Pathways
- Standpipes  
Greywater disposal points
- Solid waste containment and collection point
- Toilets – e.g. stand alone or mini block
- Fire hose points



# Principles

- Framed structure
- Modular
- Suspended floor
- Low-technology simple construction
- Ubiquitous materials
- '**BETTER**' practice
- Incremental improvements





# Final reflections on TD approach

## Lessons

- Value in co-design: embedding research in current landscape (key players and existing projects)
- Value in inter-disciplinary team: practitioners, scientists, community activists
- Value in participatory approach: local solutions which are feasible, practical and maximise impact

## Looking ahead

- Pilot build of new housing typology - **complete**
- Contribution to pilot partnership upgrading model for eThekweni (through iQhaza Lethu programme)
- 150 units planned for eThekweni: approx. ZAR 10 million in next phase (early 2021)
- Contribution to Angolan National Housing Upgrading Policy through DW in partnership with UN-Habitat



**International  
Science Council**



**Thank you!**