



Development Action Group

Placing partnerships at the helm of its programmes

DAG's primary focus is to provide technical skills to civil society organisations and community groups that are threatened with forced removals in Cape Town. The areas that these services are offered to include Phillipi, Mitchells Plein, Helderberg and Taiwan in Khayelitsha.

They wish to reverse the negative impact of the spatial patterns that were established and entrenched during the apartheid era. The aim is to develop a "re-imagined" city where the previously marginalised and isolated are reconnected to the rest of the city. In practical terms, the south-eastern part of the city would be integrated conceptually, physically and socially with the wider Cape Town region.

This NGO was established in 1986 and over the years has developed a number of different programmes to help them fulfill their mandate. These include Participatory Urban Governance (PUG), Housing and Human Settlements (HHS) and Capacity Building (CB). Within the HHS programme is a sub-programme addressing community driven housing. There are various benefits attached to this initiative as it supports job creation and local enterprise development. This goes way beyond only benefiting the occupants of the house as it impacts on the level of economic activity in the local community. Recipients of homes are involved in the building of their own houses and local community-based contractors gain skills and generate an income. DAG prides itself in having been able to award a contract to a local all-female construction company; this helped the company build capacity and credibility that could potentially support the expansion of their business.

In its attempts to create sustainable human settlements through developments that are driven by dignity, human rights and equity, DAG has impacted upon the lives of 1 761 in various disadvantaged communities of the Cape Town metro. Many of them have been able to participate in the building of their own homes and others have enjoyed the business that has been shared amongst local construction companies.



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