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“As a committed city official or citizen you have the power to start something that becomes impactful. You just need **commitment and perseverance.**”

## How have you been affected by flooding?

I am privileged in that my sturdy house has not had more than minor damage, but flooding has greatly impacted my work. Those that are less fortunate do not have a sturdy house and need our greatest efforts. That is what motivates our work in the Climate Change Department. driving city-university research partnerships to better understand community challenges and needs, and driving the city's adaptation response, aiming to secure these outcomes.

## Key actions and impact

I've worked as Director at eThekweni Municipality UCCRN Knowledge Sharing Hub, co-Chair EPIC Africa network, co-lead for Durban Research Action Partnership, and I've led the establishment and chaired the KZN Climate Change Compact from 2014 – 2024. I was the lead for the development and implementation of the Durban Climate Change Strategy and Chair of the DCCS Subcommittee. I also helped establish the DCCS Implementation Framework, the EPIC Durban programme and EPIC Africa network, the UCCRN Durban Knowledge Hub. I have given inputs into Second and Third Assessment Reports on Climate Change in Cities; contributed towards development of the Community-based flood early warning system in Quarry Road West informal settlement and the establishment of the Palmiet Transformative River Management Programme.

## Challenges and lessons learned

Some of the major obstacles faced include access to resources and capacity shortages in the climate change adaptation branch; working across cities in Africa and the communication and governance challenges that brings. We have tried overcoming this by working closely with peers for capacity building and the co-development of climate change adaptation programmes, supported by transdisciplinary research programmes. It is important to reach out to peers and form a working group; encourage your city to join organisations like ICLEI to leverage opportunities in the climate change space, and work hard at informing city leadership of the risks and opportunities in climate change to secure support for your work.

## Call to action

We hope to greatly scale up our community-based early warning system work to reduce vulnerability in informal settlements and create opportunities for capacity building and self-employment through the Transformative River Management Programme. It is important to believe in the power of yourself by just starting to tackle what is needed.

## MEET THE CHANGEMAKERS

**#3** *This is part of an infographic series profiling key role players who are working with the INACCT Resilience project in supporting resilience building.*