**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Title of Study:**  **Community-led Upgrading for Self-Reliance in South Africa – Integrated Construction and Environmental Management Systems in Informal Settlements**

The project is funded by the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council in collaboration with the National Research Foundation in South Africa, as part of the Newton Fund. The project team includes lead researchers from the University of Westminster, University of KwaZulu-Natal, and University College London.

You and your community has been selected because of its successful community-led upgrading processes and the involvement of uTshani Fund in the provision of housing, electricity, water and sanitation. During the project, your community and community leaders will be actively involved in the research as co-producers of knowledge. Once the research is completed, you will benefit from the research findings in the form of a workable toolkit for housing and infrastructure provision to help you enhance self-reliance and quality of life in your own community.

**Summary Information**

The study will involve:

1. Researchers collecting information using **surveys**.
2. Researchers carrying out **interviews**.
3. You, as participants, contributing in **direct observation** during site visits during which project team will gather photographs and videos (where participants permit).
4. You, as participants, taking part in **research workshops**. We anticipate undertaking a minimum of four one-day workshops attended by at least 20 community members where you will produce drawings, mindmaps, photographs, videos and digital audio recordings.
5. You, as participants, taking part in **focus group discussions** with community organisations (NGOs) and eThekwini municipality officers.

**General Guidelines**

1. Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary.
2. You have the right to withdraw at any time without giving a reason. You have the right to ask for data to be withdrawn as long as this is practical, and for personal information to be destroyed.
3. Wherever practicable, withdrawal from the research will not affect any small reward that you will receive.
4. You do not have to answer particular questions either on questionnaires or in interviews if you do not wish to do so.
5. It is unlikely that you should suffer psychological or physically through your involvement in the fieldwork activities. However, the surveys, interviews, workshops and observations, or any other type of participatory method will be halted if any signs of psychological or physical distress become apparent.
6. Your responses will normally be made anonymous, unless indicated above to the contrary, and will be kept confidential unless you provide explicit consent to do otherwise, for example, the use of interview quotes or images from photographs and/or video recordings.
7. You will not be identifiable from any collated data, written report of the research, or any publications arising from it.
8. All computer data files and hard copy documents, e.g. consent forms, completed questionnaires, etc. will be encrypted and password protected. We will keep files in a secure place and will comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act.
9. You will receive information on the results of the research through publications and also dissemination events. Six in-field training and participatory events will be organised by the South African project team in Durban to raise public awareness and foster community engagement.

**Contact Details**

You can contact the lead researchers under each project phase during and after participation in a survey, interview, direct observation, research workshop or focus group discussion using the following details:

This study has been ethically reviewed and approved by the University of Westminster Research Ethics Committee (UREC – VRE Ref: 1516-0595, Economic and Social Reseacrh Council (ESRC)/National Research Fund (NRF) Ref: ES/N014006/1) and the University of KwaZulu-Natal Research Ethics Committee. Should you have complaints about this research project you can contact the Dean.