

Senqu Municipality

IDP Summary 2022-2027 Review 2025-2026

June 2025

1. Introduction

Senqu Municipality is a Category B Municipality under the Joe Gqabi District Municipality in the Eastern Cape. It borders with the Kingdom of Lesotho in the north, Free State and Walter Sisulu Municipality in the west, Emalahleni and Sakhisizwe Municipalities in the south and Elundini Municipality in the east. It derives its name from the Sesotho name for the Orange River viz Senqu.

It is one of the 3 local municipalities in Joe Gqabi District Municipality in the Eastern Cape and covers an area of 7329km². with 178 villages and 3 major urban centres viz Lady Grey, Barkly East and Sterkspruit (Senqu HSP 2020) divided into 17 wards. It has 3 minor urban hamlets of Rossouw, Rhodes & Herschel.

The Municipality has a mainly rural population who live in villages. The traditional rural landscape is changing with increased urbanisation and less time and money being spent on a subsistence farming lifestyle. Villages are increasingly growing towards former urban areas such as Sterkspruit and Hershel.

Senqu Municipality had a population of 147 703 in 2022 (StatsSA, 2022). This makes it the most populous municipality in the Joe Gqabi district followed by Elundini (StatsSA,2022). It has an annual growth rate of 0.84 % which is below the districts at 1.03%. Household numbers have increased to 48,914 households with an average size of 3 per household (StatsSA,2022). Smaller household size is due to urbanisation and participation in a world economy which means that the cost of large families and households are prohibitive.

The dominant home language is isiXhosa, isiHlubi, seSotho, Afrikaans and English. A larger part of isiHlubi speakers can be found around the Sterkspruit area. In terms of race, the Black African population are in the majority. Over 90 % of the population are Black African followed by Whites, who are just slightly higher than the coloured population.

2. Service delivery Overview

Housing backlog in the Senqu municipality was determined as 10 761 with 1 752 in the urban area and 9009 in the rural area (Housing Sector Plan HSP 2013).

Electricity backlogs are minimal with 96 % of the population served. Most backlogs are newly built houses in newer village extensions and the village of Dangershoek

Refuse removal is only operated in Barkly East, Sterkspruit, Rhodes and Lady Grey on a weekly basis. Currently 40,5 % of the Municipality receives municipal services for refuse removal.

Water service is good with only 25,5 % not having access to piped water. Sanitation provision is good with only 1713 households not having access to any sanitation facilities

3. Vision

A leading rural Municipality with a viable and modern economy.

4. Mission

Create decent living conditions by providing high quality services, ensuring equal access, developing and maintaining sustainable infrastructure and encouraging innovation to support local economic growth while protecting the environment.

5. Values

To achieve its mission, Senqu Municipality embraces the following values:

- a. People first (Batho pele)
- b. Integrity and honesty
- c. Transparency and fairness
- d. Accountability

- e. Excellence
- f. Humility
- g. Respect and tolerance for cultural diversity
- h. Discipline

6. Key Performance Areas and Municipal Priorities

The following Municipal priorities were identified through the municipal strategic sessions held in February 2022

NO	KPA	MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES
1	Basic Service delivery and infrastructure	Building Economic and Social Infrastructure
2	Local Economic Development	Growth of Tourism and Agricultural Sector
3	Municipal Financial Management and Viability	Revenue Enhancement
4	Municipal transformation and institutional development	Improve Institutional Capability
5	Good Governance and Public Participation	Deepen Democracy
6	Environment and Spatial Development	Equity to Land and Sustainable Human Settlement

For the Municipality to effectively deal with underdevelopment and poverty, the following Key Performance Areas were identified for measurable performance within a defined framework.

1. Good governance & public participation
2. Municipal transformation and institutional development
3. Municipal financial management and viability
4. Local economic development
5. Basic Service delivery and infrastructure
6. Environment and Spatial management

7.Capital Municipal projects

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
MUNICIPAL			
Audio Visual System	1,757,168.05	-	-
Computers - software & programming	697,009.99	486,338.19	
Laptops & IT Equipment	414,850.73	430,057.51	447,280.20
Construction of Fleet Bay-Sterkspruit	1,500,000.00	2,000,000.00	
Furniture & Office Equipment	148,249.88	60,793.84	64,429.90

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Power Backup System	514,336.11	-	-
Renovation of the Mayoral House	3,071,445.37	-	-
Renovation of the MM's House	400,000.00	-	-
Purchase of Grazing Land	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
Tools and Equipment (Greening Project)	20,000.00	-	-
Weedeaters	239,170.10	190,720.86	151,853.58
SPORTS FIELDS			
Construction of Blue-Gums Sportsfield	3,700,107.00	-	-
ROADS			
Construction of interlock paved streets in Khewzi Naledi (Steve Tswete) W 14	4,998,176.00	-	-
Driving Licence and Testing Centre Sterkspruit	4,445,000.00	-	-
Lining, fencing and upgrading of primary storm water channel through Khwezi Naledi and upgrade of two motor bridges. W 14	8,089,706.20	18,109,878.35	13,526,338.23
New Rest Construction – Paving W 8	8,357,090.49	19,190,921.04	12,495,835.61
Rehabilitation of Roads & Stormwater in Barkly East Ward 15 & 16	15,280,038.37	-	-

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Rehabilitation of Roads & Stormwater in Lady Grey Ward 14	16,303,833.89	18,500,000.00	-
Rehabilitation of Roads & Stormwater in Mokhesi Ward 8	15,280,038.37	-	-
Rehabilitation of Roads & Stormwater in Ward 10	16,303,833.89	18,500,000.00	-
Repairing of 4,5 km gravel roads and stormwater channels in Ward 9: Joveleni, Hinana and Voyizana	4,209,242.88		
Repairing of 5.2 km gravel roads and stormwater channels in Ward 1: Ndofera, Bikizana and Mbobo	4,516,224.00	-	-
Repairing of 6 km gravel roads and stormwater channels in Ward 17: Sunduza, Bensonvale, Jozana nek	4,900,968.00		
Tienbank_Access to Property (180 Properties)	244,051.12	-	-
CEMETRIES			
Fencing of existing cemeteries at Joveleni, Hinana and Voyizana W 9	800,000.00	-	-
ELECTRICITY			
DOE Projects - Electrification of Households at Mountain View Ward 10	-	4,331,304.35	4,526,956.52
Electrification of Households at Mountain View Ward 10	1,521,521.74	-	-
Pre-Paid Electricity Meters	2,268,543.01	1,582,874.16	1,102,760.68
FLEET			

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Fleet - GFS ROADS (Plant)	2,808,487.75	1,135,450.05	339,020.64
COMMUNITY HALLS			
Herschel Community Hall W 11	4,490,632.62	-	-
SOLID WASTE SITES			
Solid Waste Site – Sterkspruit	-	-	18,000,000.00

Summary of Operational budget

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
WASTE MANAGEMENT			
Landfill Site Fence and Weigh bridges (Barkly East & Lady Grey)	140,014.66	114,787.40	-
Barkly East Weigh Bridge: (W) 16	22,636.64		
Lady Grey Weigh Bridge: (W) 14	101,525.27	105,752.77	
Integrated Waste Management Services	355,338.43	368,363.72	
Hybrid Landfill sites	1,004,319.16	1,046,138.95	
Management of Landfill Sites	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00
R&M Landfill sites	193,969.10	201,079.23	200,126.25
National Clean Up Week: (W) All	466.00	483.08	480.79

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Solid Waste Removal Rural: (W) All	251,466.26	364,349.61	377,950.95
Solid Waste Site SS: (W) 10	165,034.24	171,906.25	178,790.65
Waste Man Awareness: (W) ALL	32,130.72	33,308.50	34,642.42
Waste Removal W5,10,13,14 & 15)	2,204,456.66	2,684,129.26	2,790,465.87
PUBLIC FACILITIES			
R& M Public Toilets W 10,14,15	28661.59	29712.22	30429.39
COMMONAGE			
Barkly East & Lady Grey Boundary Fence	278,804.00		
Fencing Commonage	32,124.62	33,302.19	34,635.85
R& M Pound	141,320.98	45,302.42	46,612.54
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT			
AFS: (W) Head Office	465,979.28	546,569.81	568,458.51
Asset Register: (W) Head Office	344,256.28	355,619.58	353,934.18
Billing: (W) Head Office	428,078.39	455,653.73	468,156.76
Debt Collection: (W) Head Office	244,716.22	-	-
General Valuation: (W) Head Office	562,422.67	729,122.78	
LED			
Agricultural Indaba: (W) All	145,470.95	171,802.34	149,734.39

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Agricultural land development	776,204.47	-	-
Tourism	510,576.67	531,395.40	539,067.91
Resort maintenance & development	168,905.55	175,096.96	174,267.12
SMME Development: (W) All	174,064.47	215,086.12	214,066.76
Street Signs: All Wards	213,730.99	149,130.64	74,211.93
LED	2,188,646.55	2,378,536.10	2,519,661.05
GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
Automation of HR Processes	2,427,300.00	1,789,100.00	1,944,430.00
HR SUPPORT (W) Head Office	1,293,371.87	1,452,621.08	1,510,794.78
By-Laws: (W) Head Office	7,891.56	8,180.83	177,017.89
Council Support: (W)Head Office	436,384.45	553,398.42	124,572.23
Internal Audit Software (W) Head Office	351,824.09	376,397.35	391,471.09
Internal Audit Support: (W) Head Office	590,921.17	615,094.10	639,727.02
IT Comp Cost: (W) Head Office	4,663,679.37	5,911,271.19	6,054,392.88
IT GovFramework: (W) Head Office	2,695.34	3,961.82	3,943.04
Legal Services: (W)Head Office	3,023,584.44	3,443,066.63	3,635,016.51

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
MPAC: (W) Head Office	130,313.11	135,071.20	140,102.84
mSCOA Implement:(W)Head Office	784,117.88	837,917.79	870,779.19
Document Storage	370,577.37	384,161.26	399,545.92
OHS: (W) Head Office	755,876.17	797,602.88	816,722.95
Oversight Roadshow	10,898.97	10,863.93	11,299.00
Performance Management: (W)Head Office	141,434.51	270,715.04	270,710.35
Individual Performance: (W)Head Office	1,059,793.16	1,202,306.55	63,763.11
IDP Preparation: (W) All	594,796.83	537,860.91	575,560.59
Public Participation: (W)Head Office	391,023.24	587,761.15	611,299.46
Round Table Meet: (W)Head Office	88,652.06	137,811.18	143,330.16
Security Serv: (W)Head Office	9,944,176.39	10,036,616.09	9,438,556.52
Sitting Allowance_Traditional Leaders	354,375.58	373,593.20	388,554.63
Social cohesion	10,169.79	10,542.57	10,492.60
Strat Session: (W)Head Office	762,073.51	866,721.00	901,430.92
Talent Management	358,294.84	371,428.51	386,303.25
Speakers' events	301,671.57	306,515.67	274,556.69

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Ward Committees: (W) All	3,501,005.32	4,164,474.77	4,331,251.17
Training	4,533,844.89	5,296,741.09	5,968,344.37
TRAFFIC			
Calibration and Camera VTS	283,770.22	31,444.39	32,703.66
Traffic Equipment (VTS Cameras)	78,096.36	-	-
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES			
Bursary Assistance	2,151,052.59	2,156,716.82	815,443.54
Bursary Assistance: Achievers	300,000.00	-	-
Childrens Programmes: (W)	79,536.92	82,452.43	85,754.44
Disabled Program: (W) All	153,240.44	179,097.39	186,269.77
EAP: (W) Head Office	340,630.98	469,865.82	486,162.00
Elderly Persons Prog: (W) All	162,112.50	168,054.90	174,785.06
HIV/Aids Programs	194,554.24	217,235.66	225,935.39
Initiation Forum(W) All	32,697.23	33,895.78	274,374.11
Mayors' events	301,671.57	306,515.67	274,556.69
Woman Development: (W) All	86,932.02	90,118.61	93,727.62
Youth Empowerment: (W) All	1,400,939.48	1,517,495.72	1,247,105.61

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
COMMUNICATION			
Communication: (W) All	574,512.19	628,918.30	640,127.67
Website Development	68,602.82	68,382.23	71,120.76
ENVIRONMENTAL			
Environmental Management Framework	375,643.48	-	-
Greening, Beautification and Landscaping	919,225.79		
Integrated Fire Services	458,816.10	477,580.60	496,706.47
Integrated Transport Plan	317,266.45	-	
FREE BASIC SERVICES			
FBS_Electricity;(W) All	9,069,177.15	9,327,537.30	9,834,258.75
FBS_Refuse;(W) All	2,264,345.36	2,411,084.24	2,563,116.69
FLEET MANAGEMENT			
Fleet Manage: (W) Head Office	4,090,304.99	2,489,824.50	2,589,535.51
SPATIAL PLANNING			
R&M_Investment Properties	409,389.33	468,444.19	466,224.08
Formalisation of internal informal settlements (Mountain view & Zwelitsha)	1,032,305.54	420,987.11	209,495.96
Formalisation of surrounding Sterkspruit villages	152,287.90	157,870.17	78,560.98
GIS: (W) Head Office	45,225.44	46,883.23	46,661.03

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Housing - Human Settlements	1,347,992.49	1,282,637.28	638,279.22
Land Audit (W) All	1,009,547.61	-	-
Land Use Management (W) All	546,243.19	773,597.49	625,607.09
SPLUMA: (W) All	267,944.94	298,499.86	165,024.68
Sterkspruit Development Business Plan	320,214.75	331,952.54	231,265.52
FRAUD PREVENTION			
Fraud Prevention Awareness	26,895.92	26,809.44	27,883.09
CEMETRIES			
Lady Grey and Herschel Cemeteries	4,854,417.93	4,854,417.93	-
R&M_Cemeteries: (W) ALL	1,287,643.79	1,365,943.36	1,364,174.88
ROADS & STORMWATER			
R&M Roads (W1-17)	5,697,466.81	6,089,096.52	6,491,558.47
R&M_Bridges_ All Wards	3,574.70	3,705.74	3,854.14
R& M Stormwater	470,672.14	487,925.11	507,040.83
JOB CREATION			
Job Creation_ Own Interns	70,859.79	74,235.68	73,883.86
LIBRARY			
Library : (W) Head Office	241,671.00	306,381.79	304,929.74
R&M_Libraries	379,528.20	320,874.27	319,353.54

ITEM	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
SPORTSFIELDS & HALLS & PARKS			
R&M Sportsfields	234 668.30	33,153.79	34,481.51
R&M_Halls: (W) All	736,498.26	784,228.47	792,918.10
R&M Taxi Rank Ward 10	14,831.83	15,375.50	15,731.62
R&M Vehicles	3,858,667.33	4,165,225.05	3,858,492.61
R&M_Tools & Equip_5301 : (W) All	893,436.17	926,185.98	922,808.65
ELECTRICITY			
R& M Transformers (W10,14,16)	575,916.62	611,897.72	647,397.15
Replace street lights (W10,14,16)	765,492.85	1,203,047.90	60,858.78
Replacement of MV Overhead Line Tar Poles on infrastructure	280,122.25	304,630.03	316,829.67
Ward 16 Reroute of LV Overhead Line with Street Lights for Lulama Location	500,000.00	-	-
R&M_Electricity Store: (W)	151,446.25	156,997.67	163,285.02
R&M_Buildings: (W) Head Office	2,507,331.35	2,304,206.63	2,396,484.13
R&M_Equipment	147,693.46	132,203.99	117,707.94
R&M_Equipment: (W) Head Office	1,267,542.26	1,341,388.81	1,399,843.60
R&M_Furn & Equip: (W) Head Office	22,312.21	23,130.08	24,056.38
R&M Other assets	738,161.12	820,775.40	826,957.86
R&M Parks : (W) All	15,901.90	16,484.80	17,144.98