Senqu Municipality

IDP Summary 2022-2027 Review 2026-2027

June 2026

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 themajority. 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	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
MUNICIPAL			
Computers - software & programming	R 1,750,224.26	R 830,134.56	R 856,698.86
Laptops & IT Equipment	R 30,715.00	R 15,357.50	-
Automation of HR Processes	R 250,000.00		
Communication Equipment	R 100,000.00	R 40,000.00	R 16,000.00
Construction of Fleet Bay-Sterkspruit	2 000 000		
Furniture & Office Equipment	R 114,636.71	R 102,814.57	R 79,063.00
Power Backup System	R 257,169.00	-	-
Purchase of Grazing Land	R 3,000,000.00		-

ITEM	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Tools & Equipment	R 239,170.10	-	-
Barkly East & Lady Grey Boundary Fence	R 278,804.00	R 167,282.40	R 83,641.20
SPORTS FIELDS			
Construction of Blue-Gums Sportsfield	R6,000,000.00	R9,000,000.00	-
ROADS			
Driving Licence and Testing Centre Sterkspruit	R4,800,000.00	-	-
Lining, fencing and upgrading of primary storm water channel through Khwezi Naledi and upgrade of two motor bridges. W 14	R1,832,553.04	R8,000,000.00	R10,000,000.00
New Rest Construction – Paving W 8	R21,060,688.70	R10,000,000.00	R2,181,671.40
Rehabilitation of Roads & Stormwater in Barkly East Ward 15 & 16	R7,688,708.60	-	-
Rehabilitation of Roads & Stormwater in Lady Grey Ward 14	R9,500,000.00	R23,072,610.00	-
Rehabilitation of Roads & Stormwater in Mokhesi Ward 8	R3,249,278.46	-	-
Rehabilitation of Roads & Stormwater in Ward 10	R5,500,000.00		-
Construction of 3km Paved Road with Motorway Bridge Esilindini to Frans Ward 12	R800,000.00	R5,581,043.48	R11,926,893.82
CEMETRIES			
Lady Grey and Herschel Cemeteries	R0.00	R0.00	R7,500,000.00
ELECTRICITY			

ITEM	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Electrification of Households at Lulama Village Ward 16	R0.00	R4,526,956.52	R4,732,173.91
Installation of 2 High Mast Lights in Ward 10 (Zwelitsha & Mountain View)	R2,215,986.09	R0.00	R0.00
Installation of 2 High Mast Lights in Ward 13 - Herschel	R2,215,986.09	R0.00	R0.00
Installation of 2 High Mast Lights in Ward 15 - Rhodes	R2,215,986.09	R0.00	R0.00
Installation of 3 High Mast Lights in Ward 16 (Boysi Nondala & Rossouw)	R3,313,678.26	R0.00	R0.00
Installation of 3High Mast Lights in Ward 8 (New Rest & Mokhesi)	R3,313,678.26	R0.00	R0.00
Pre-Paid Electricity Meters	R3,000,000.00	R3,000,000.00	R3,000,000.00
FLEET			
Yellow Fleet	R20,000,000.00		
Specialised Vehicles	R3,234,139.13	R3,300,000.00	R3,300,000.00
COMMUNITY HALLS			
Renovations (Barkly East Town Hall)	R 4,500,000.00	-	-
SOLID WASTE SITES			
Construction of Sterkspruit Solid Waste Site	R800,000.00	R7,700,000.00	R10,000,000.00
Construction of Transfer Station in Rhodes	R1,500,000.00	R2,500,000.00	
Electrification of Rossouw Solid Waste Site	R3,200,000.00		

8.Summary of operational budget

Projects	FY 2026/27	FY +1 2027/28	FY +2 2027/28
Acquisition costs: (W) Head Office	119,162.93	120,306.68	125,969.27
AFS: (W) Head Office	491,912.83	568,458.51	586,649.19
Asset Register: (W) Head Office	117,272.95	115,616.86	122,836.60
Billing: (W) Head Office	659,520.98	481,501.08	496,909.11
Budgets: (W) Head Office	195,364.33	202,592.81	209,075.78
Bursary Assistance	110,877.48	117,645.71	122,690.37
Customer Records: (W) 10	64,066.74	63,763.11	65,803.53
Debt Collection: (W) Head Office	331,248.77	253,291.65	261,396.99
FMG: (W) Head Office	955,068.80	955,150.85	955,220.79
General Valuation: (W) Head Office	717,585.86	649,875.07	556,028.20
IT Comp Cost: (W) Head Office	6,111,271.19	6,054,392.88	6,248,133.45
IT GovFramework: (W) Head Office	3,961.82	3,943.04	4,069.22
mSCOA Implement:(W)Head Office	837,917.79	870,779.19	898,644.12
Preparation of VAT reviews/ returns	845,930.02	870,939.67	902,009.74
Revenue Enhancement Project	187,917.07	187,026.47	193,011.31
Stores: (W) Head Office	52,018.88	53,292.87	54,545.32
Supplier Perf : (W) Head Office	49,430.62	49,196.35	50,770.63
Sustainable FM Framework	824,069.62	852,301.64	882,775.29
Barkly East Weigh Bridge: (W) 16	370,014.66	147,015.40	124,572.23
Calibration and Camera VTS	227,016.18	32,703.66	33,750.18
Fencing Commonage	33,302.19	34,635.85	35,744.20

Projects	FY 2026/27	FY +1 2027/28	FY +2 2027/28
Grass Cutting Services: (W) ALL	70,000.00	49,000.00	19,600.00
Integrated Waste Management Services	73,672.74	73,672.74	81,040.02
Lady Grey and Herschel Cemeteries	550,000.00	-	-
Lady Grey Weigh Bridge: (W) 14	101,525.27	105,752.77	105,752.77
Library : (W) Head Office	362,943.09	386,346.78	398,709.88
National Clean Up Week: (W) All	-	480.79	504.83
Other_Expenditure_Payroll Project	1,884.53	1,875.60	1,935.62
Solid Waste Removal Rural: (W) All	189,001.57	377,950.95	396,452.53
Solid Waste Site SS: (W) 10	171,906.25	178,790.65	187,730.19
Waste Man Awareness: (W) ALL	53,278.70	51,780.95	54,027.23
Waste Removal in BE: (W) 16	842,745.27	865,408.08	893,239.73
Waste Removal in Herschell: (W) 13	50,377.53	48,847.74	50,472.41
Waste Removal in LG: (W) 14	836,549.09	801,269.22	827,107.83
Waste Removal in RH: (W) 15	116,846.87	110,546.42	114,108.38
Waste Removal in Rossouw: (W) 5	2,216.50	2,205.99	2,276.58
Waste Removal in SS: (W) 10	861,044.85	962,188.42	994,018.30
Automation of HR Processes	1,431,280.00	1,685,184.00	1,739,109.89
Bursary Assistance	70,824.30	63,741.87	50,993.50
By-Laws: (W) Head Office	8,180.83	8,142.06	8,402.61
Childrens Programmes: (W)	77,161.04	85,754.44	88,498.58
Council Support: (W)Head Office	423,398.42	438,955.56	453,002.14

Projects	FY 2026/27	FY +1 2027/28	FY +2 2027/28
Disabled Program: (W) All	143,277.91	186,269.77	192,230.41
EAP: (W) Head Office	236,774.10	479,386.32	494,726.69
Elderly Persons Prog: (W) All	125,598.03	174,785.06	180,378.18
HIV/Aids Programs	195,512.10	225,935.39	233,165.32
HR SUPPORT (W) Head Office	1,032,098.31	1,017,597.85	1,169,552.28
Individual Performance: (W)Head Office	480,922.62	577,107.15	692,528.58
Integrated Fire Services	477,580.60	496,706.47	512,601.07
Legal Services: (W)Head Office	4,251,679.95	3,659,987.82	3,777,107.43
OHS: (W) Head Office	924,379.93	816,722.95	842,858.08
OPEX_Document Storage	268,912.88	322,695.46	412,331.39
Performance Management: (W)Head Office	1,515.55	1,576.25	1,626.69
Public Part: (W)Head Office	643,059.91	611,299.46	630,861.04
Recruitment costs	248,168.54	255,613.60	263,282.00
Secreteriat Support: (W)Head Office	113,186.99	117,719.84	121,486.87
Security Serv: (W)Head Office	8,029,292.87	10,367,824.42	10,699,594.80
Social cohesion	10,542.57	10,492.60	10,828.37
Talent Management	259,999.95	272,999.95	286,649.95
Ward Committees: (W) All	3,725,229.95	4,271,251.17	4,407,931.21
Youth Development: (W) All;	140,000.00	147,000.00	151,410.00
Agricultural Indaba: (W) All	171,802.34	149,734.39	154,525.89
Formalisation of internal informal settlements (Mountain view & Zwelitsha)	516,152.77	420,987.11	209,495.96

Projects	FY 2026/27	FY +1 2027/28	FY +2 2027/28
Formalisation of surrounding Sterkspruit villages	121,830.32	157,870.17	78,560.98
GIS: (W) Head Office	3,230.00	3,553.00	3,553.00
Housing - Human Settlements	1,347,992.49	1,332,382.67	342,873.65
IDP Preparation: (W) All	762,226.37	537,860.91	485,241.43
Land Use Management (W) All	1,046,247.72	773,597.49	625,607.09
LED (Tourism Event and SMME support)	1,649,665.05	1,710,702.66	1,765,445.14
LED Support: (W) All	1,043,839.60	1,189,647.41	1,189,647.41
LED Training: (W) Head Office	53,725.32	53,470.70	55,181.76
Resort maintenance & development	87,567.87	114,267.12	117,923.66
SMME Development: (W) All	191,333.30	397,940.76	410,674.86
SPLUMA: (W) All	-	430,403.37	444,176.28
Sterkspruit Development Business Plan	265,562.04	-	-
Street Signs: All Wards	54,211.93	55,838.29	57,513.43
Tourism Associations Support (W) All	106,769.62	158,636.39	163,712.75
Tourism Indaba:(W)Head Office	125,742.53	62,573.30	64,575.65
Tourism Marketing: (W) All	78,184.73	78,892.67	81,417.24
Tourism Support: (W) All	177,137.08	228,198.50	241,436.62
Bursary Assistance	2,344,624.29	1,875,699.43	1,500,559.55
Communication: (W) All	771,524.82	640,127.67	660,611.75
Fraud Prevention Awareness	26,809.44	27,883.09	28,775.34
Initiation Form(W) All	95,731.42	81,501.63	56,187.62

Projects	FY 2026/27	FY +1 2027/28	FY +2 2027/28
Internal Audit Software (W) Head Office	-	191,471.09	403,998.16
Internal Audit Support: (W) Head Office	618,547.32	639,727.02	660,198.29
Mayors' events	367,818.80	274,556.69	283,342.51
MPAC: (W) Head Office	150,083.24	140,102.84	144,586.13
Oversight Roadshow	10,863.93	11,299.00	11,660.57
Project Management Consultant	694,197.30	711,552.23	734,321.90
Sitting Allowance_Traditional Leaders	149,437.28	179,324.73	215,189.68
Speakers' events	306,515.67	274,556.69	283,342.51
Strat Session: (W)Head Office	784,947.73	768,604.65	795,073.78
Website Development	68,382.23	71,120.76	73,396.63
Youth Empowerment: (W) All	1,420,635.60	1,377,258.25	1,425,123.98
Fleet Manage: (W) Head Office	3,477,870.57	3,577,102.86	3,691,570.15
PMU Assistance: (W) Head Office	133,777.87	139,135.33	143,587.66
Replace Street lights: (W) 10	255,923.12	305,271.17	318,239.84
Replace Street lights: (W) 14	229,362.94	254,845.56	266,200.61
Replace Street lights: (W) 16	229,008.22	275,805.10	287,830.86
Replacement of MV Overhead Line Tar Poles on infrastructure	304,630.03	316,829.67	326,968.22
Training	6,639,732.00	7,317,146.92	7,475,210.83