

Bucket Loads of Health had 4 main phases.

Phase 1 comprised participatory workshops with groups of community members from Enkanini and Delft. Participants worked with visual methods including body mapping and personal story telling, and produced musical accompaniments, to reflect upon their experiences around water shortage, water saving and water reuse – and what these mean to their health and wellbeing.

Phase 2 involved bringing the community participants and the SUN water microbiologists together in a knowledge exchange and co-learning process. The creative outputs from Phase 1 were shared with the scientists, and the scientists engaged the community members in the need for and implications of their research. Dialogues around the health risks associated with using alternative water sources were facilitated to encourage the generation of new ideas around safe water saving and recycling.

Phase 3 – Participants from both groups were supported to produce short collective films, to convey their experiences around water in their communities, how the drought has affected them, their families and their community, and their perspectives on research and community engagement in science. These films included the stories, music and maps generated through Phase 1.

Phase 4 enabled the outputs and learning from the project to be made more widely available through exhibitions in each of the 2 participating communities. Presentations in academic forums and with municipal policy makers extended the reach of project learning.

During the Bucket Load of Health project, we worked with Pam Sykes (founder of Digital Story Telling South Africa) on the body mapping and personal story telling components, and Victoria Hume (University of the Witwatersrand) on all things musical.