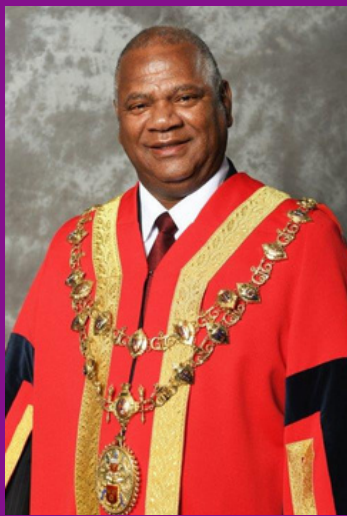




**INFORM  
WOMEN,  
TRANSFORM  
LIVES**

# CITY SPOTLIGHTS

## CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



**Alderman Dan Plato,**  
Executive Mayor  
of Cape Town, South Africa

Because women often have a harder time than men accessing important public information, The Carter Center is working with 13 international cities to help them get information to women about beneficial city services. Today, we're speaking with Alderman Dan Plato, executive mayor of Cape Town, South Africa, about the campaign there.

### What service(s) are you highlighting?

Through a six-week training program, we are highlighting public library services in Cape Town. This includes information services, a free library membership, and free access to the internet through the city's SmartCape service.



## Why did you choose to focus on these services?

The public library service is ideal for this campaign because it specializes in access to information in both print and electronic form. The public library helps people access different types of technological resources—from computers to Wi-Fi to the city website—for free. Librarians are the best-equipped professionals to help women access and understand municipal information.

## How are you using the Inform Women, Transform Lives grant to reach more women?

During the campaign, our specially curated six-week training program will help women learn how to access the information they need. A city representative will hold engagements with participants to inform them about all the ways they can benefit and get in touch with the city about various services.

Our training program will use a “snowball” approach to recruit new participants. It will start with 140 women, who after completing the training will be encouraged to teach 10 or more women in their community about what they learned. The program will be repeated three times, so that by the end of the campaign, 420 women will have completed training and influenced 4,200 more women!

## More generally, why do you think it’s important for women to have access to information?

Access to information gives women the tools to exercise other constitutional rights, such as the right to equality and human dignity. When a woman knows her rights, she is empowered to stand up against injustice.

