

## The localisation of the National Strategy Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide: Johannesburg Region D

---

**A THEMATIC PAPER**



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## Synopsis

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) have been a persistent issue in South Africa for decades, with high levels of violence and discrimination against women and girls. South Africa's government has acknowledged this crisis and has taken steps toward addressing it. The National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF is one such initiative. The NSP is a comprehensive framework that aims to prevent GBVF, improve service delivery for survivors, and strengthen the criminal justice system's response to GBVF. However, the success of the NSP hinges on its implementation and localisation at the provincial and municipal levels. The localisation of the National Strategy Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide is a step toward reducing violence in Gauteng.

The Localisation of the NSP is an important step toward addressing the pervasive issue of GBVF in the country. GBVF is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a coordinated and comprehensive response at all levels of society. Localising the NSP involves adapting and implementing the plan to suit the unique needs and contexts of different communities and regions in South Africa. This requires engaging with local stakeholders and communities to identify specific challenges and opportunities for addressing GBVF in their context. This may also involve developing targeted interventions and programmes that respond to the specific needs of different communities, such as addressing cultural norms and practices that perpetuate GBVF, providing support services for survivors, and engaging men and boys in prevention efforts.

Localising the NSP also requires building capacity at the local level, including training and supporting local service providers and advocates to address GBVF in their communities. This may involve working with local government and civil society organisations to strengthen their capacity to respond to GBVF.

Overall, localising South Africa's National Strategic Plan on GBVF is an essential step towards achieving a coordinated and effective response to GBVF in the country. It requires a sustained commitment to engage and collaborate with local stakeholders and communities, as well as a willingness to adapt and evolve strategies based on ongoing learning and feedback.

This Thematic paper examines the significance of localising the NSP as well as potential challenges in the process. The paper draws literature from the government, civil society, and media, among other sources. This paper is an effort to respond to the GBVF scourge and also address some of the obstacles to advancement. The paper aims to influence policymakers, the government, civil society, and important actors in the field.

## The significance of NSP localisation

On April 6, 2022, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted a webinar on localising the implementation of the NSP to strengthen the fight against GBV at local levels. The webinar was led by the NSP on GBVF Pillar Convenors and Ambassadors of the 100-Day Challenges that were being piloted as a means to fast-track localisation.<sup>1</sup> Localisation is critical for the successful implementation of the NSP. It recognises that GBVF is not a uniform issue and requires a context-specific approach. It is essential to understand the specific challenges and opportunities for addressing GBVF in different communities and regions of South Africa.<sup>2</sup> For example, rural areas may face different obstacles in preventing and responding to GBVF than urban areas.

Localising the NSP helps build local ownership and buy-in. In the first NSP, critics raised concerns about its implementation including the issue of how the interventions were determined and how their success was measured without localisation.<sup>3</sup> When communities and stakeholders are involved in the development and implementation of interventions, they are more likely to take ownership and feel a sense of responsibility for the success of those interventions which can lead to sustained commitment and investment in its implementation.

Localising the NSP to suit local needs and context can enhance the effectiveness and relevance of interventions. This can lead to better outcomes and a more significant impact in reducing GBVF.<sup>4</sup> As highlighted in the NSP, fighting GBVF requires a multifaceted effort from all stakeholders.<sup>5</sup> Localising the plan can help build local capacity to address the pandemic through working with local service providers, advocates, and grassroots organisations and also support the development of local skills and resources to address GBVF. This can lead to sustainable, long-term solutions that are grounded in the local context. Localising the plan can encourage participation and engagement from local stakeholders and communities. When communities are involved in the development and implementation of interventions, they are more likely to participate actively in those interventions, increasing the likelihood of success.

---

<sup>1</sup> THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. (2022) Available at: <https://www.gov.za/speeches/webinar-localising-implementation-national-strategic-plan-nsp-end-gender-based-violence-and> [Accessed 3 April 2023]

<sup>2</sup> GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE. (2020) Available at: <https://gbvf.org.za/nsp-100-day-challenges/>

<sup>3</sup> KODISANG, P. (2022) *Mail and Guardian*. Available at: <https://mg.co.za/opinion/2022-10-08-tackling-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-requires-collective-effort/>

<sup>4</sup> SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION. (2022) 'Measures to wage a concerted battle against illegal mining (zama zamas) and the manifestation of criminality and violence in the affected communities'. Available at: [https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/Pages/2022/7-August/8-08-2022/Ministerial\\_Briefing\\_Illegal\\_Mining/session2/SALGA.pdf](https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/Pages/2022/7-August/8-08-2022/Ministerial_Briefing_Illegal_Mining/session2/SALGA.pdf) [Accessed 3 April 2023]

<sup>5</sup> THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN ON GBVF (2020) Available at: <https://gbvf.org.za/category/nsp/> [Accessed April 1 2023]

## Local mapping of GBVF hotspots

In 2020, the SAPS identified 30 GBV hotspots countrywide; nine of the places were from the Gauteng province.<sup>6</sup> But this does not address the problem at a wider community level. Mapping GBVF hotspots in Gauteng province is a crucial step in the localisation of the NSP. Locally identifying the areas with the highest prevalence of GBVF across Gauteng helps in developing and implementing targeted interventions to prevent and respond to GBVF in these areas.<sup>7</sup>

Data on GBVF incidences can be gathered from a variety of sources, including police reports, medical facilities, civil society organisations working on GBVF, as well as local residents, just like in the earlier mapping of national GBVF hotspots. This time, however, the data can be used to identify locations in the community with high GBVF incidence rates. In mapping GBVF hotspots, it is important to also consider various factors including poverty, unemployment, and inadequate access to services such as healthcare, education, and justice. Identifying GBVF hotspots at local level helps in developing targeted interventions. These interventions could include community-based education and awareness-raising programmes, the establishment of safe spaces for women and girls, and the provision of counselling and support services for GBVF survivors.

## The implementation of gender-responsive budgeting

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) is a powerful tool to address gender inequalities and promote gender equality in budgetary policies and practices. Ensuring that gender-responsive budgeting is integrated into the localisation of the NSP on GBVF would ensure that adequate resources are allocated towards interventions that address the root causes of GBVF. The government's local gender-responsive budgeting framework should understand the local needs, priorities, and experiences of all genders and how budgetary policies may impact gender equality. The framework should also develop local guidelines to ensure that budget allocations are sensitive to gender issues and that they take into account the different needs and priorities of different groups. In addition to budget analysis, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting to ensure that it is achieving its intended objectives is crucial. This will help to identify successes and challenges and enable adjustments to be made as necessary.<sup>8</sup>

## Addressing cultural norms and beliefs

Addressing harmful cultural norms and beliefs that perpetuate GBVF in Gauteng province is a key part of the localisation of the NSP because these norms and beliefs often perpetuate GBVF and can make it difficult for individuals to recognise and report incidents of violence. This could include working with traditional leaders, civil society organisations,

<sup>6</sup> THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICES. (2020) Available at: <https://www.saps.gov.za/newsroom/msspeechdetail.php?nid=28452> [Accessed 3 April 2023]

<sup>7</sup> FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. (N.D.) *Masibambane GBV Free Zones*. Available at: <https://www.fhr.org.za/masibambisanegbv/> [Accessed 3 April 2023]

<sup>8</sup> COMMISSION FOR GENDER EQUALITY. (2021) *Government's Gender Responsive Budgeting Framework*. Available at: <https://cge.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CGE-Gender-Responsive-Budgeting-Framework.pdf> [Accessed 3 April 2023]

and communities to raise awareness of the harmful impact of these beliefs and promote gender equality and positive gender norms. Other cultural norms and beliefs that contribute to GBVF include dominant gender norms, the normalisation of violence in intimate relationships, victim-blaming attitudes, and beliefs that women and girls are inferior to men. By localising the NSP, there will be work to change these attitudes and beliefs. Through education, advocacy, and community engagement, we can create a safer and more equal society for all.

## Gaps and challenges

While the NSP on GBVF is a comprehensive framework developed to address the issue of GBVF, several challenges may arise in the process. The local governments across the country face significant resource constraints, which may hinder the implementation of the National Strategic Plan and those in Gauteng are not immune to these challenges.<sup>9</sup>

- Firstly, there is a lack of capacity at the local level to implement the NSP effectively. For example, smaller municipalities may lack the human and financial resources to establish and maintain GBVF response and prevention programs.
- The province also has inadequate GBV funding which may limit its ability to roll out the plan effectively; this is also coupled with inequalities in distributing those funds. Gauteng has a large population, with diverse needs and priorities. This fragmentation can make it challenging to implement the NSP in a coordinated and comprehensive manner across the province.
- Cultural barriers including attitudes and beliefs can also pose significant challenges to implementing the plan effectively. Some communities may view GBVF as a private matter or believe that violence against women is justified in certain circumstances. These cultural attitudes can make it difficult to change behaviours and attitudes and gain support for the plan.
- The institutional capacity of some organisations responsible for implementing the NSP is weak. This may include government departments, civil society organisations, and community-based organisations. Weak institutional capacity can limit the ability of these organisations to implement the NSP effectively, hence the failure to protect and support GBVF survivors and victims.
- While there is growing awareness of GBVF in South Africa, many people may not fully understand the scope and severity of the problem. This lack of awareness can limit public support for the NSP and hinder its implementation.
- Adequate data is critical for the effective planning and implementation of the NSP. However, Gauteng lacks sufficient data on the prevalence and nature of GBVF. This can make it challenging to target interventions effectively and evaluate their impact.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> NSP ON GBVF, 2020-2030. (2020)

<sup>10</sup> Gaps and challenges were extracted from the *National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, 2020-2030*

Localising the National Strategic Plan on GBVF in Gauteng presents significant challenges. However, by addressing these challenges through coordinated and comprehensive efforts, Gauteng can contribute to the national effort to address GBVF and create safer communities for all.

### **Strategies for localisation:**

To address these challenges, several strategies can be employed to localise the NSP effectively. Firstly, the government can provide technical assistance and resources to support provinces and municipalities in implementing the NSP. For example, the government can establish partnerships with civil society organisations and provide funding for their programmes. Engaging with civil society organisations in Gauteng province would allow for the localisation of the NSP to be informed by the experiences and perspectives of grassroots organisations working on GBVF. Secondly, the government can invest in community mobilisation and awareness-raising campaigns to educate community members about the importance of GBVF prevention and response. Thirdly, the government can establish coordination mechanisms to facilitate collaboration across different stakeholders. For example, the government can establish inter-ministerial committees at the provincial and municipal levels to coordinate efforts across government agencies.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, localisation is essential for the successful implementation of South Africa's NSP on GBVF. Localised approaches account for the unique needs and challenges of each province and municipality and foster greater community ownership of the plan. However, challenges such as a lack of resources and capacity, community resistance, and coordination issues may arise in the localisation process. To address these challenges, the government can provide technical assistance, invest in community mobilisation, and establish coordination mechanisms. With these strategies in place, South Africa can make progress toward ending GBVF and creating a safer and more equitable society for all.

## DISCLAIMER

*This policy brief is for the “Strengthening Local Governance to Improve Gender Based Violence” Project also known as the “Masiphephe Network” (“Let’s Be Safe”). The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG) unit, and led by the Centre for Communication Impact (CCI). The Masiphephe Network community-based gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response partners across three provinces in South Africa, believe that GBV is the grave consequence of complex social and structural problems. Our programme encourages inclusive GBV interventions through strategic policy advocacy, community-led collaborative supportive multi-sectoral partnerships, building awareness and promoting behaviour change to shift GBV social norms. Our views are informed by community engagements and recommendations. The contents of this policy brief are the responsibility of CCI and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID.*

**BREAK THE SILENCE, CALL 0800 428 428 (GBV COMMAND CENTRE) TO REPORT AND GET GBV SUPPORT.**

## Masiphephe Network Implementing Partners

ORGANISATION	IMPLEMENTATION SITE/ LOCATION	CONTACT #
CCI	Pretoria, Gauteng	012 366 9300
GHJRU	University of Cape Town	021 406 6023
Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (ADAPT)	City of Johannesburg Region E, Gauteng	011 786 6608
Sonke Gender Justice (Sonke)	City of Johannesburg Region D, Gauteng	011 339 3589
Ethembeni Crisis Care Centre (ECCC)	eThekwini West, KwaZulu Natal	031 704 6860
Gugu Dlamini Foundation	eThekwini INK Area, KwaZulu Natal	031 292 2852
Project Support Association Southern Africa (PSASA)	Emalahleni Local Municipality and City of Mbombela	013 752 5624

## Social Media Platforms



@masiphephe



[www.facebook.com/masiphephe](http://www.facebook.com/masiphephe)



masiphephe