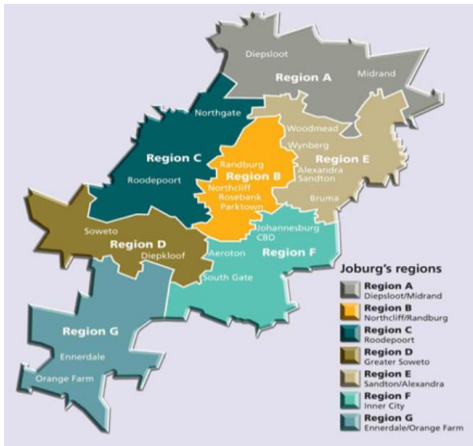


Masiphephe Network POLICY BRIEF

March 2023



LOCALISING THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN ON GBVF: JOHANNESBURG REGION D



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



KEY FACTS

- New interventions have been implemented towards ending GBVF since the launch of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF in 2020. These include: Extensive legal reform; support for survivors through the provision of evidence kits at police stations; psychological and social services; the establishment of a GBVF Response Fund and support for Thuthuzela and Khuseleka Care Centres, which provide vital services for GBV survivors.
- The GBV Council is the custodian of the NSP and plays the role of strategic oversight for the realisation of the national outcomes outlined in the plan.
- The NSP's vision is a South Africa free from GBV directed at women, children and LGBTQIA+ persons.
- The NSP is guided by ten principles¹ all centred on leaving no one behind in the fight for GBVF.

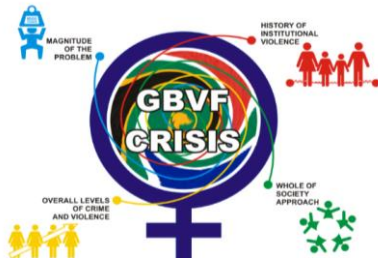
PURPOSE

This policy brief outlines how the Gauteng Province can localise the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).² The policy brief will also highlight how the implementation of the NSP to end GBVF [collective] through the Six Pillars directly impacts communities. The paper will explore national policies and laws that will help to support localisation of the NSP on GBVF. The policy brief will explore ways stakeholders can collaborate as well as the resources required including monitoring and evaluation of the strategy implementation.



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BACKGROUND



who live with a disability, migrant women and trans women, affected and impacted by the GBV scourge in South Africa.

The NSP aims to provide a multi-sectoral, coherent strategic policy and programming framework to strengthen a coordinated national response to the crisis of GBVF by the government of South Africa and the country as a whole. The strategy seeks to address the needs and challenges faced by all, especially women across age, sexual orientation, sexual and gender identities; as well as specific groups such as elderly women, women

¹ THE TEN NSP PRINCIPLES INCLUDE: A multi-sectoral approach, Complementing and augmenting existing strategies; active and meaningful participation; a visionary, gender-responsive, and transformative approach; a human rights-based, victim-centred, survivor-focused approach; an inter-generational, youth-friendly, progressive realisation of outcomes; forward looking in the co-creation; mutual accountability for changes; inclusiveness, embracing diversity and intersectionality.

² THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN ON GBVF (2020) Available at: <https://gbvf.org.za/category/nsp/> [Accessed April 1 2023] It aims to provide a multi-sectoral, coherent strategic policy and programming framework to strengthen a coordinated national response to the crisis of gender-based violence and femicide by the government of South Africa and the country as a whole.

The South African Government continues to intensify its fight against GBVF, which President Cyril Ramaphosa has described as the country's 'second pandemic'.³ The National Strategic Plan on GBVF is the government's comprehensive strategy for tackling all forms of violence and abuse against women and children. Since the launch of the strategic plan in 2020, these new interventions have been implemented:⁴

- Extensive legal reform
- Support for survivors through the provision of evidence kits at police stations
- Psychological and social services
- The establishment of a GBVF Response Fund
- Support for Thuthuzela and Khuseleka Care Centres, which provide vital services for GBV survivors.

The NSP on GBVF arose from discussions before the 2018 Presidential Summit on GBVF, including base documents generated by Task Teams and respective Commissions at the Summit. According to the Year 1 Report on the implementation of the NSP on GBVF (2021), "only a few government departments have successfully embedded the NSP on GBVF within their operations. This is generally due to a lack of a sense of urgency within government in general, which needs to be addressed. As long as government does not do what it takes to effectively put the NSP on GBVF into practice, the NSP on GBVF will not live up to the promise of a South Africa free from GBVF directed at women, children and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and non-heterosexuals (LGBTQIA+)."⁵ The report concludes that, this failure to prioritise and embed the NSP on GBVF creates a mismatch between what the strategy was designed to accomplish, and the approach taken to implement it.⁶ This situation generally worsens throughout the governance spectrum from provincial to district, then to local and community levels. The City of Johannesburg's Region D is no exception.

STEPS TO LOCALISATION OF THE NSP

1. Identifying key stakeholders



The stakeholders largely include **Conveners of the NSP's six pillars**. These include various government departments, civil society organisations, community activists, community media and private sector representation among others at community level as listed below:

- City of Johannesburg
- National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)
- Department of Social Development
- Department of Health, representatives from the local clinics

³ THE PRESIDENCY. (2023) *State of the Nation Address, 2023, Gender-based violence*. Available at: <https://www.stateofthenation.gov.za/priorities/making-communities-safer/gender-based-violence> [Accessed April 1 2023]

⁴ IBID (2023).

⁵ SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. (2021) *Overview of National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Roll-Out Year 1 - 1 May 2020 – 20 April 2021*, Pg 7. Available at: http://efaidnbmnnnibpajpcglefindmkaj/https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202108/nsp-gbv-year-1-rollout-report-2020-2021-final-version-web.pdf. [Accessed on 14 March 2023]

⁶ IBID. (2021)

- Representative from the Office of the Mayor
- Municipal Gender Focal Point
- District and Ward Councillors
- Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)
- South African Police Service (SAPS) and/or Metro Police representation
- Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison and Community Brigades
- South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA)
- Chapter 9 Institutions – Commission for Gender Equality, South Africa Human Rights Commission
- Community Safety Forum representatives
- Traditional Leaders
- Traditional Healer's Association
- Interfaith Forum
- Community-Based Organisations on GBV awareness and advocacy
- Ward committee and other community forum representatives
- Community Action Team members including GBV advocates and/or activists
- ZAZI and Brothers for Life Club Members
- Business/Private sector
- Community Media
- Academia, experts, or advisors

2. Enforcing Legislation

Government has introduced new laws to protect women and children in South Africa from abuse and violence. Additionally, new legislation has strengthened the criminal justice system and has recently been implemented. This has put more effective deterrents in place to promote accountability and has enabled better protection and support for survivors.

Various legal frameworks have been put in place to promote and enforce gender equality, such as the Constitution, Promotion of Equality and Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000; Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998; Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995; Domestic Violence Act 116 of 1998; the Maintenance Act 99 of 1998; Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007; Protection from Harassment Act 17 of 2011; Children's Act 38 of 2005; Older Persons Act 13 of 2006 and the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act 7 of 2013. Some recent amendments include.⁷

Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act Amendment Bill

- Expands the definition of incest.
- Introduces a new offence of sexual intimidation.
- Further regulates the National Register for Sex Offenders.
- Regulates the reporting duties of people who are aware that sexual offences have been committed.

Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill

- Introduces mandatory DNA collection for certain crimes.
- DNA to be taken from people convicted for schedule eight offences – rape, murder, human trafficking, robbery and culpable homicide.

Domestic Violence Amendment Bill

- Expands the definition of domestic violence to include actions such as controlling or bullying behaviour.

⁷ SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, THE PRESIDENCY. (2023) *State of the Nation Address, 2023*. Available at: <https://www.gov.za/SONA2023> [Accessed April 1 2023]

- Makes provisions for protecting people in engagements, dating and in customary relationships.
- Further regulates protection orders in response to domestic violence.

Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill

- Amends various laws that address GBV and offences committed against vulnerable people.
- Provides additional procedures to reduce secondary victimisation of vulnerable people in court proceedings.

3. Funding the fight for GBVF

While the National GBVF Council has attracted resources to fight GBVF, these resources need to be cascaded down to the community through targeted as well as proactive financing. Around R21 billion has been dedicated over the medium-term to the implementation of the six pillars of the plan, including the economic empowerment of women.⁸ The multi-sectoral convenors have to implement a monthly budget targeted at prevention, response, treatment and GBVF services. It is clear that there is a linkage between economic disempowerment and vulnerability to intimate partner GBVF. Programmes that will enhance economic empowerment of victims as well as the youth are essential. There is a need to adequately provide treatment kits and social workers. Funding should be resourced from the private sector to enable adequate clinics as well as response to GBVF cases. The coverage of police protection in Region D could be increased through satellite police stations as well as partnering with the private security sector.

4. Improving Infrastructure

There is a need for the pillar convenors to mobilise for infrastructure to curb GBVF. Government is making progress in establishing dedicated desks at police stations in GBVF hotspots. The desks are staffed by police officers who are specifically trained to provide victim-centred assistance and support. There are now 134 desks in operation and the goal is to have a GBV desk in all police stations countrywide.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

There is a need to have a localised monitoring tool for the implementation of the NSP on GBVF. This tool will facilitate programming, resourcing and monitoring and evaluate coherence to the respective NSP pillars and the Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation and Auditing Framework (GRPBMEA). Since the national strategy highlights that at a local government level, monitoring will be integrated into Integrated Development, it is critical for Region D to work closely with ward councillors and the City of Johannesburg. The localised plan should include quarterly reporting to the Region D GBVF Forum in order to facilitate effective performance monitoring, evaluation and corrective action. The localised plan must determine respective roles and engagement in monitoring and evaluation activities, the associated risks and consequence management, as well as the form and method of communicating the progress. The plan should include peer monitoring of the NSP implementation from community to community.

⁸ IBID. (2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF LOCALISATION OF THE NSP

- Talk with men on how to prevent gender-based violence.⁹
- Identify trends of GBVF in Johannesburg and compare these with the rest of the country through research.
- Invest in prevention programmes targeting youth and adolescents thereby hindering GBVF.
- Target schools and homes through interpretation of gender norms and raising awareness of the many forms of GBV.
- Work with youth-led organisations including through life skills programmes at schools and community centres.
- Utilise the media including social media to challenge societal norms on power relations.
- Target workplace sensitisation on GBVF to prevent GBVF from emanating in the workplace and promote role modelling in adults.
- Change the narrative of unequal power relations through changing attitudes one individual at a time. This includes conducting household attitude surveys on gender as well as in community forums.

Specifically, Johannesburg Region D could localise the NSP through implementing the following per pillar:

Pillar	Strategies for Localisation
Pillar One: Accountability, Coordination and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen community leadership capacity in Region D through training, financing and peer-to-peer learning. • Improve communication modalities within the Region D GBVF sector through regular community meetings and share information from national level.
Pillar Two: Prevention and Rebuilding Social Cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop research that will enable a response to and prevention of GBVF. • Continue with awareness programmes that leave no one behind and especially target youth. • Work with men and boys in fostering behaviour change through the Brothers for Life programme. • Target schools in Region D through roadshows that raise GBVF issues. • Work with local ward councillors to ensure safety of public spaces such as parks, shopping malls, roads and playgrounds – e.g. a tracking system that ensures that tall grass is cut and that there is improved street lighting.
Pillar Three: Justice, Safety and Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish or review referral systems for GBVF survivors to ensure that they access efficient and sensitive criminal justice that is quick, accessible, responsive and gender inclusive. • Hold regular police training on GBVF response and prevention. Private security sector firms could also be involved as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. • Review Johannesburg by-laws to ensure that they align with GBVF legislation.

⁹ Tleane, M., Agape Youth Movement. (2022) *Localising the implementation of the National Strategic Plan to end GBV* Available from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gi5wUdWGeJs> [Accessed April 1 2023]

Pillar	Strategies for Localisation
Pillar Four: Response, Care, Support and Healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen existing response, care and support services by the state and civil society in ways that are victim-centred and survivor-focused to facilitate recovery and healing. • Train social workers and law enforcement agents to reduce secondary victimisation. • Monitor shelters and Thuthuzela Centres to ensure that survivors feel supported by the Region D GBVF Forum in terms of psychosocial, material and other support. • Develop rapid response mechanisms, community by community for any immediate GBVF cases. This could be through secure WhatsApp or a mobile app.
Pillar Five: Economic Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Department of Human Settlements to ensure safe housing for women and girls as well as development partners for initiatives that empower women and girls economically. • Target workplace establishment of sexual harassment policies and systems. • Develop clear guidelines in local languages for accessing child support to reduce the economic burden on women.
Pillar Six: Research and Information Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region D can hold community roadshows and shopping centre dramas to improve understanding of the extent and nature of GBVF. • Establish a research and development unit that will take note of emerging GBVF trends as well as produce evidence-based research. This research should be readily available to all community members in Region D and simplified for community understanding.

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)	eThekweni West, KwaZulu Natal	031 704 6860
Gugu Dlamini Foundation	eThekweni 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



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