

# Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme

## Improving framework conditions for preventing violence in South Africa

Project name	Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP) Programme in South Africa
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-funded by	Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
Project Region	South Africa
Lead executing agency	National Department of Cooperative Governance South Africa
Duration	02/2012-11/2024, current phase since 2019
Financial Volume	VCP III: 8.6 Mio EUR (incl. 3.5 Mio EUR GAC); since 2012: total of 19.2 Mio. EUR

### The Challenge:

People's quality of life and opportunities depend fundamentally on their safety and freedom from all forms of violence. Extremely high levels of interpersonal violence are an obstacle to South Africa's development. Between April 2022 and March 2023, an average of 74 murders per day were recorded. Youth are especially vulnerable to becoming perpetrators or victims of violence due to risk factors such as exposure to violence in childhood, poor education outcomes, substance misuse, and unemployment. South Africa also has one of the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world, primarily driven by harmful gender norms and entrenched patriarchy. The rates of femicide in the country are more than five times higher than the global average.

South Africa has a comprehensive and progressive national violence prevention policy framework that addresses interpersonal violence more broadly, as well as gender-based violence specifically, in the form of the White Paper on Safety and Security (WPSS), its implementation strategy, the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy, and the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based

Violence and Femicide (NSP-GBVF). However, the necessary capabilities to implement these policies effectively are generally insufficient, especially at the local level.

### Our Approach:

The project seeks to contribute to creating a safer South Africa through promoting integrated, holistic, and developmental approaches to address the root causes of violence and crime.

The project supports multi-stakeholder interventions and a whole-of-society approach to violence prevention to strengthen capacities for the implementation of prevention policies at the local level. The VCP project works across four complementary areas of intervention:

1. Empowering children and youth to become changemakers for safety and resilience.
2. Strengthening capacities of key local actors such as municipalities, NGOs and faith leaders.
3. Supporting evidence-informed implementation and funding strategies for national safety policies.
4. Generating and disseminating knowledge and evidence for effective violence prevention

### Policy in Action

In partnership with Department of Women Youth and Persons with Disabilities, the VCP project has supported the development of the Comprehensive National Prevention Strategy on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (CNPS), an implementation roadmap for Pillar 2 of the NSP-GBVF.



Public Park in Johannesburg supported through the VCP project to become an accessible and safe public space for the local community. (l); brochure of the VCP supported online platform [saferpaces.org.za](http://saferpaces.org.za) (r)



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The CNPS seeks to address GBVF by focusing on eliminating the social acceptance of all forms of violence against women, children and LGBTQIA+ persons. The CNPS is multifaceted and long-term, focused on transforming harmful social norms that feed GBV while intentionally reshaping societal values and norms to build positive social cohesion and restores human dignity.

The VCP project has supported the implementation of the CNPS through strengthening multi-stakeholder exchange, coordination, and resourcing of GBVF prevention. This has been achieved through on-going technical advice to the End GBVF Collective, one of the main multi-stakeholder mechanisms to coordinate and account for the implementation of the NSP-GBVF. The development of an M&E framework for the CNPS and the development of financing recommendations for evidence informed GBVF prevention initiatives has further enhanced comprehensive implementation of the CNPS.

## Results in Figures

The VCP project has introduced several measures to enhance the capacities of local government to contribute to safer communities. The South African Local Government Association was supported to develop capacity strengthening processes and related learning material, such as the [LGSETA accredited material](#) and a [community safety planning guidebook](#) for officials and councillors. Representatives from 27 municipalities and four provinces were [trained](#) to enhance the role of local government in community safety planning. An [online course](#) that encompasses key elements of the training will also be offered.

Support is also provided to selected municipalities to develop localised safety plans, with 11 plans finalised to date.

Other place-based support measures include the integration of environmental design approaches in safety plans in selected precincts

## In a Story

In collaboration with NGO We Will Speak Out South Africa and the Faith Action to End GBV Collective, the VCP project is actively mobilising and capacitating the faith sector in South Africa to make a contribution to the prevention of gender-based violence. Through an Inter-Faith Sector GBV Mobilisation Campaign, the initiative involves multiple faith traditions, fostering interfaith collaboration. A significant achievement is the development and launch of an Inter-Faith Joint Statement of Commitment, signed by diverse faith leaders, scholars,

and the implementation of experimental urban living lab approaches.

A key VCP initiative addressing GBV is the support to upscaling the evidence-informed prevention approach, [Stepping Stones and Creating Futures](#) (SSCF). 290 young men and women in disadvantaged communities participated in a programme on gender norms and sustainable livelihoods guided by peer facilitators. An additional 28 NGO and municipal staff members were trained as trainers of SSCGF facilitators for institutionalised and broad scale up through state- and non-state partnerships, such as the Expanded Public Works Programme.

Recognising the critical role of young people in overcoming the challenge of violence VCP, jointly with national partners, initiated the [National Youth Resilience Initiative](#). The collaboration aims to enhance support to youth to promote their psycho-social wellbeing and resilience to violence. So far 161 young leaders have been capacitated to engage their peers through various interventions, including in community trainings in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, and Western Cape, through [social media \(nyri sa\)](#) and a [podcast called The Youth Force](#). The collaboration includes an [online e-learning platform](#) available to all young people in the country.

VCP also supports the scaling up of prevention interventions in schools. The [Masifunde Changemakers Network](#), a learner-led school safety intervention, reached 8000 learners from 35 schools in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality and has been expanded to four provinces across the country.

The network will empower learners in 100 schools, spread across 20 districts, with the support of civil society organisations, teachers, and school managers. These 100 learners will recruit 500 changemakers to spark and sustain prevention activities in their schools and communities.

activists, and individuals, denouncing GBV and committing to transformative action.

The collaboration includes the Faith Leaders Gender Transformative Programme a 10-month Christian-based initiative equipping faith leaders to contribute to GBV prevention, gender justice, and support for survivors in their communities, emphasising collaborative learning and institutional transformation. The campaign and FLGTP collectively embody a pioneering effort to address GBV in South Africa by engaging and transforming the faith sector.

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
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<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/17705.html>  
As at February 2024

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Author Franziska Frische, Ryan Hoffmann  
GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.  
On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)  
In cooperation with Global Affairs Canada (co-financing)