



MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC PLAN ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE 2025 - 2030



office of the premier
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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I. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Office of the Premier owes sincere gratitude to the multi-sectoral interim working team led by the Office on the Status of Women and all stakeholders for ensuring that the Premier's Office, successfully delivers the very first Mpumalanga Provincial Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (2024-2029) Further, we acknowledge the contributions made inter alia by the following structures and organizations:

The Executive Council, Executive Mayors, and Heads of Department for the valuable inputs provided at the Provincial Summit on the GBVF report back session.

The Gender Focal Persons from Provincial Departments and Transversal Managers or coordinators from all municipalities for the provision of technical support.

Civil Society Groups from the three districts of the province Nkangala, Ehlanzeni, and Gert Sibande for participating in the various consultations held at all three districts. In this regard, we particularly acknowledge the immense contribution made by the victims, survivors, and activists from these districts.

All representatives from the Chapter Nine Institutions, your contributions are valuable.

Key strategic partners that provided valuable support and guidance: the Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities, Touch a Million, SA MEN FIRST, Mpumalanga NPO Association, Middelburg Victim Support Centre, Institute for Gender Education and Transformation, Disabled People South Africa, Afrika Tikkun, USAID, PEPFAR, IOM, UN Women, SA, and UNFPA.

The Mpumalanga community made inputs and participated at the Provincial Summit on GBVF hosted in Gert Sibande District, Secunda at Graceland, in October 2022.

Lastly, the Mpumalanga delegates that participated at the 2nd Presidential Summit on GBVF in Gauteng at Midrand in November of 2022, your dedication and representing the province well are appreciated.

II. FOREWORD

The Premier's Foreword- MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029



Gender-Based Violence and Femicide is an exceptional affront to the spirit and purport of our democratic dispensation and if we do not address it decisively, it will continue to erode the advancements we have made upon the commencement of our democratic dispensation 29 years ago. South Africa, has recorded high levels of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide in the past recent years and sadly continues to do so. Data from the **World Health Organisation** indicates that South Africa's femicide rate was 12.1 per 100,000 in 2021 which is five times higher than the global average of 2.6 per 100,000 people. The SAPS Crime Statistics report indicates that femicide increased by 11% over the last 3 years.

Mpumalanga Province is not immune to these statistics and we continue to record an unacceptably high number of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide cases with the majority of cases being opened in Piensaar in Ehlanzeni District . We can no longer afford to turn a blind eye to the cries for help from the most vulnerable in our communities. We all have a moral and legal obligation to assist victims of Gender-Based Violence in their pursuit of justice and most importantly to play an active role in their journey toward healing.

In recognition of this obligation, the Provincial Government has made a concerted effort to bring together a wide array of stakeholders such as leaders of faith-based organizations, civil society, traditional leadership and healers, and other community-based organizations in order to develop the Mpumalanga Provincial Strategic Plan 2023-2028 on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. This holistic and multi-sectoral approach outlines the interventions we commit to embark upon in addressing the root causes of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide and to ensure a safe environment for all.

The scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide is an unfortunate by-product of societal issues such as patriarchy and the skewed economic relations between men and women. Patriarchy and a lack of gender parity in our societies result in men exerting undue socio-economic influence over women. This often results in situations wherein, women tolerate injustices and abuse perpetrated against them simply because among others their financial dependency on their abusers.

In order to address this problem, we must ramp up and accelerate the initiatives we have in place to empower women and the vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities. Numerous studies that have been conducted across the world have shown that where interventions are linked to *economic and social empowerment of women*, intimate partner violence has decreased significantly. Economically and socially empowered women develop greater capacity to extricate themselves and their children from abusive environments.

We must raise boys and girls with the knowledge and understanding that no person has the right to abuse them or treat them as inferior. We must create a society that does not support notions of authority and control over women and does not tolerate violence against women.

Community leaders including ward councillors and traditional leaders across the length and breadth of our Province should remain alert and take decisive action on charges of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide in their communities. Ward councillors working with social workers should act with urgency in assisting Gender-Based Violence victims within their communities. Ward councillors and community development workers must be capacitated to ensure that they aid victims of Gender-Based Violence at every stage, including the laying of charges, the incorporation of social workers, and the linking of victims to Thuthuzela centres. Families or friends who encourage a victim to drop charges against a perpetrator must themselves be charged with ***defeating the ends of justice***.

We must also invest in making sure that victims of Gender-Based Violence are aware of their rights and how to exercise them correctly and responsibly. For example, how to obtain a protection order that is enforceable across the country and is aimed at protecting the victim from the perpetrator.

With this Strategic Plan on GBVF, we want to reach a point where ***no woman, child and everyone else experiences violence, violation, and trauma*** of Gender-Based Violence and where we do not normalize such uncouth practices. The MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 mirrors the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence. It provides a cohesive framework outlining how we will address Gender-Based Violence in a coordinated and integrated manner. We have seen through the implementation of the District Development Model that the government at the National, Provincial, and Local levels coordinate and integrate operations to accelerate and amplify the delivery of services.

The establishment of Rapid Response Task Teams are critical at local, district, and provincial levels for a swift response to GBVF-related issues. These teams have to be co-chaired by the Executive Mayors and one civil society GBVF activist or representative and at the provincial level, I as the Premier of this province will co-chair with one civil society member as indicated by the National GBVF Strategy. The functionality, and activism of these teams will assist a great deal to minimize the scourge of GBVF in our communities.

It is critical to appraise the team including the non-government institutions and civil society of the need to work with the provincial government to develop and implement the strategic plan which will pave the way forward on how to collaborate our multi-sectoral efforts as a province | to ensure effective response and support mechanism to end the scourge of GBVF.

Let us all collectively eradicate the scourge of GBVF and ensure a safer Mpumalanga for all, and remember this fight is for everyone the and government alone will not succeed.

MPNdlovu

Mr. MP Ndlovu

Premier of Mpumalanga Province

Date 28/01/2025

III. ACRONYMS

CBO	Community-Based Organization
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CJS	Criminal Justice System
COGTA	Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
MPGBVF-SC	Mpumalanga Provincial Gender Based Violence and Femicide Steering Committee
CNPS-GBVF	Comprehensive National Prevention Strategy on Gender Based Violence & Femicide
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DARDLEA	Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs
DCSR	Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation
DCSSL	Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison
DoE	Department of Education
DEDT	Department of Economic Development and Tourism
DH	Department of Health
DHS	Department of Human Settlements
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DPWRT	Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport
DSD	Department of Social Development
DVA	Domestic Violence Act
EIPCVSPSP	Early Intervention to Prevent Crime and Violence and Promote Safety Policy
FBO	Faith Based Organization
FCS	Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBVF	Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
ICVPS	Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy
IJS	Integrated Justice System
ILO	International Labor Organization
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and other extensions
MEGA	Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency
MER	Mpumalanga Economic Regulator
MPG	Mpumalanga Provincial Government
MPGBVF-SC	Mpumalanga Provincial Gender Based Violence and Femicide Steering Committee
MRTT	Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust
MTPA	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
NAP on WPS	National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (NAP) 2020-2025.
NCGBVF	National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide
NDP	National Development Plan
NIFPS	National Integrated Femicide Prevention Strategy
NPA	National Prosecuting Authority
NPO	Non-Profit Organization
NSP-GBVF	National Strategic Plan on Gender- Based Violence and Femicide
PEPFAR	Presidency's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PT	Provincial Treasury
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAPS	South African Police Services
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SETA	Sector Education & Training Authority
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SMME	Small Medium Micro Enterprise

SOA	Sexual Offences Courts
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
TCC	Thuthuzela Care Center
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	Violence Against Children
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WHO	World Health Organization
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defender
WPSS	White Paper on Safety and Security

IV. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Child: a person under the age of 18 years.¹

Coordination: the regulation of diverse elements into an integrated and harmonious operation; synchronization and integration of activities, responsibilities, and command and control structures to ensure that resources are used in the most effective way, in pursuit of the specified objectives

District based approach to service delivery: this is aimed to address service delivery and economic challenges through synchronization of planning across all spheres of Mpumalanga provincial government, working along with social partners such as CSOs, business and community

Domestic Violence: this is defined in line with the South African law which includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, verbal and psychological abuse, economic abuse, intimidation, harassment, stalking, entry into complainants' residence without her consent, or any other controlling or abusive behaviour taking place in domestic relationships as defined in Domestic Violence Act 116 of 1998 section 1.

Economic abuse: this is an unreasonable deprivation of economic or financial resources which a complainant is entitled to under the law.

Family: a group of people living together and functioning as a single household, providing each other emotional, social, spiritual and material support sustained throughout the life.

Family Violence: is a form of inter-personal violence that include a range of abusive behaviour such as physical, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse and neglect that occur within relationships of care, kinship, dependency or trust.

Femicide: involves intentional murder of women because they are women or girls.

Feminism: a range of social movements, political movements and ideologies that share a common goal to define, establish and achieve political, economic, personal and social equality among all genders.

Gender: is a social construct, that assigns roles based on biological characteristics of people in society

Gender based constraints: this refers to the disparities and inequalities that all people face that are a consequence of differences linked to their gender, perceived gender or gender

identity and/or expression, and these disparities and inequalities become barriers to choices of self-expression and access to opportunities and services, and determine differential outcomes for them.

Gender Based Violence (GBV): this refers to violence that occurs as a result of the normative role expectations associated with gender assigned to a person at birth, as well as the unequal power relations between the genders, within the context of a specific society. GBV includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse or threats of such acts or abuse, coercion, and economic or educational deprivation, whether occurring in public or private life, in peacetime and during armed or other forms of conflict, and cause physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or economic harm.

Gender expression: external manifestations of gender, expressed through, among others, a person's name, pronouns, clothing, haircut, mannerisms, behaviour, voice and so forth.

Gender Identity: a person's internal, deeply held sense of their gender as being male or female or both or neither.

Gender inclusive: is a situation or practices in social, economic and any work place programmes initiatives, interventions does not discriminate against a particular sex, social gender or gender identity.

Gender mainstreaming: is the process of assessing the implications of women and men of any planned action including legislation, policies and programs, in any area and at different levels.

Gender Non- Conformity: people whose gender expression is different from conventional expectations of masculinity and femininity.

Government institutions: These include Provincial government, district and local municipalities

Healing: is the person experience of the transcendence of suffering. This occurs through the integrating forces that restore, transform, sustain and nurture the whole person at each phase and in every dimension of life.

Multisectoral response: refers to the deliberate collaboration among various stakeholder groups (provincial government, CSOs, movements, religious and traditional sectors, business sector and communities) to jointly achieve a policy outcome.

Patriarchy: a social system in which men hold primary power and dominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property.

Persons with Disability: includes those who have perceived and/or actual physical, psychological, intellectual, neurological and /or sensory impairments which, as a result of various attitudinal, communication, physical and information barriers are hindered in participating fully and effectively in society on an equal basis with others.

Rape: is the unlawful and intentional sexual penetration of a person by another without consent as defined by the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act ,2007.

Restorative Justice Services: is an approach to justice that aims to involve parties to a dispute and others affected by the harm (victims, offenders, families concerned and community members) in collectively identifying harms, needs and obligations through accepting responsibilities, making restitution, and taking measures to prevent a recurrence of the incident and promoting reconciliation.

Rights based approaches: is a conceptual framework for ensuring that human rights principles are reflected in policies and development frameworks at various levels.

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH): a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system and sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity.

Sexual Gender Based Violence: any sexual act or unwanted sexual comments or advances using coercion, threats of harm or physical force, by any person regardless of their relationship to the survivor, in any setting.

Sex workers: are women, men and transgender people (anyone) who receive money or goods in exchange for sexual services, and who consciously define those activities as income generating

Sexual harassment: behaviour characterized by making unwelcome and inappropriate sexual remarks or physical advances in a workplace or other professional or social situation.

Sexual offences: include rape, compelled rape, sexual assault, incest, bestiality, statutory rape, sexual exploitation, or grooming, exposure to or display of pornography.

Social cohesion: the reasonable and relative ability of the different members of society to work, live and survive together.

Social norms: are unwritten rules that regulate acceptable behaviour in a group.

Survivor/Survivor focused: an approach to service provision that is centered around the principle of facilitating a shift away from being a victim towards reclaiming and exercising personal power/agency as integral to healing.

Violence against women: any act of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

Violence against children: all forms of violence against people under the age of 18 years including abuse, exploitation, neglect and maltreatment, whether perpetrated by parents or other caregivers, peers, romantic partners or strangers



V. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of the Premier in Mpumalanga facilitated the process of developing the Mpumalanga Provincial Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (MPSP-GBVF) 2023-2028 following a recommendation from the November 2018 Presidential Summit on GBVF. The Presidential Summit on GBVF mandated the development of province-specific strategic plans. The National Strategic Plan on GBVF 2020–2030 (NSP-GBVF) was adopted in 2020 by Cabinet. The Mpumalanga Provincial Strategic Plan on GBVF is a 5-year plan for 2023 to 2028 and is reviewable in 2026.

The major overriding principle of developing the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 was to provide expression of the NSP-GBVF 2020-2030, adopting and contextualizing all the six NSP-GBVF Strategic Pillars within the Provincial GBVF challenges and priorities. The extent, to which this was done, varies considerably between the pillars and interventions from the NSP-GBVF. The development process was highly consultative and participatory to ensure a multi-sectoral buy-in and ownership of the strategy to ensure effective implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting by all the relevant stakeholders. The development process included the following steps;

Consultative meetings/focus group discussions with administrative and government departments, Provincial Gender Machinery, civil society forums-inter alia hereafter referred to as stakeholders:

- 1) Convened a Mpumalanga Provincial Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Summit in October 2022.
- 2) Conducted key informant interviews with key stakeholders in the province.
- 3) Circulated key questionnaires among key strategic stakeholders.

The MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 is premised on a multi-sectoral approach in addressing GBVF under the theme of accountability, acceleration, and amplification of GBVF responses in Mpumalanga Province. The plan aims at establishing a cohesive and collaborative approach across provincial government, municipalities, CSOs, and the private sector in addressing all forms of GBVF. It focuses primarily on the victim and survivor-centered programs and strategies to empower the communities across the province to effectively tackle the scourge of GBVF.

Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is to:

- 1) Identify GBVF priority areas, set specific GBVF targets, define GBVF strategies and policy measures required to implement the first five years on the journey to ten-year NSP on GBVF;
- 2) Strengthen the Provincial GBVF programmes and initiatives prioritized in various consultative processes, aligned to the NSP-GBVF 2020-2030;
- 3) Strengthening the socio-economic participation of the vulnerable group to ensure gender equality and transformation;
- 4) Provide an integrated implementation roadmap informed by research-based evidence for a well-coordinated multi-sectoral response to GBVF;
- 5) Outline and project the Provincial strategic direction on GBVF for stakeholders' response in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029.
- 6) Ensure rapid response at local and ward levels on issues of GBVF;
- 7) Ensure accountability by the government and other role-players.

Vision

A Province that is peaceful, safe, and free from all forms of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

Principles

The guiding principles that inform and support the implementation of this MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 are premised on:

- 1) Multi-sectoral approach and mutual accountability at all levels
- 2) Research-based evidence strategy that builds on what already exists, what works, and starts with basics moving into more complex issues.
- 3) Integration of GBVF responses within the provincial stakeholders' plans/programs; Maintain respect for and support interventions and collaborations already in action.
- 4) Connect interventions, partnerships, referral pathways, and networks to create a functional provincial GBVF prevention, control, and response system.
- 5) Safety and security of victims and survivors.
- 6) Human Rights-Based approach and victims and survivors-centered interventions to ensure GBVF-free communities in Mpumalanga.
- 7) Gender and sexual orientation inclusiveness in all programs addressing GBVF.

- 8) Socio-cultural cohesion and rehabilitation;
- 9) Optimization of resources in the allocation and utilization that focuses on low-cost high-impact integrated interventions.

Strategic Objectives

The strategic approach involves myriad, interlinked, and connected strategies that holistically address the challenge and drivers of GBVF through a coordinated multi-sectoral response. The strategies include:

- 1) Enhancing and developing mechanisms for leadership accountability within provincial government departments and municipalities' responses to GBVF.
- 2) Promoting an active and vibrant civil society that holds government accountable;
- 3) Creating a coordinated and enabling environment for private sector active participation, resource mobilization, and contribution to curbing the GBVF scourge.
- 4) Establishing effective coordination of all stakeholders through mainstreaming GBVF programs implementation and responses;
- 5) Amplification and acceleration of research-based evidence on GBVF prevention, care, and support interventions through gender norms transformation, challenging harmful traditional, cultural, and religious practices that worsen GBVF.
- 6) Facilitating healing and social cohesion for all victims and survivors of GBVF;
- 7) Enhance and promote the perpetrator/offender-victim dialogue and community integration programs aimed at achieving restorative justice;
- 8) Stimulating Small, Micro, and Medium Enterprise (SMME) initiatives to promote employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women in general, GBVF survivors and perpetrators;
- 9) Supporting community-led GBVF responses through multi-sectoral collaboration;
- 10) Establishment and development of an accessible GBVF database, with an association management information system (MIS) which facilitates and informs planning, budgeting, monitoring, reporting, evaluation, and policy development.

The Strategic Pillars with associated five-year plan outcomes

The Mpumalanga Province's key pillars are drawn from the National Strategic Plan on GBVF and synched with the context and vision of the province in its efforts aimed at addressing the impact of GBVF. The strategic key pillars of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 are:

- Accountability, coordination, and leadership
- Prevention and Rebuilding the Social Cohesion
- Justice, Safety, and Protection
- Response, Care, Support, and Healing
- Economic Power
- Research and Information Management

The strategic pillars and five-year plan outcomes are outlined in table 1, below:

Table 1: The strategic pillars and five-year plan outcomes

GBVF Strategic Plan Pillars	Five Year Outcomes
Accountability, Coordination, and Leadership	1. Strengthened leadership and accountability across various provincial government departments including political, traditional, and religious sectors for effective response to GBVF in a coherent way with sufficient human and financial resources to support the implementation of programs.
	2. Well-coordinated multi-sectoral and partnership-based response to GBVF through collaboration between provincial government departments, private partners and CSOs, traditional authorities, and the private sector to ensure effective delivery of the strategy.
	3. Well-coordinated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework aligned to District Development Models, Annual Performance Plans, Provincial Department Programmes and CSO GBVF strategies and plans
Prevention and Rebuilding the Social Cohesion	1. Empowered communities taking collective responsibility to eliminate GBVF.
	2. Moral regeneration and transformed communities.

GBVF Strategic Plan Pillars	Five Year Outcomes
	3. Strengthened transformation of toxic social norms which perpetuate violence against the powerless within societies.
	4. Safe and violent free public spaces
	5. Best practices shared and benchmarked for improved prevention interventions on LGBTQIA+ and persons with disabilities.
Justice, Safety and Protection	1. Strengthened capacity within the justice, safety and protection units/system to respond to GBVF-related matters and facilitate justice for GBV survivors.
	2. Improved referral systems for the prosecution of perpetrators and rehabilitation of offenders for support structures for Victims and survivors to build confidence in the justice system.
	3. Improved access to survivor support services through a victim-centric criminal justice service that is sensitive to and meets their needs.
	4. Reduced turnaround time for GBVF case conclusion.
	5. Strengthened capacity within the criminal justice system to address all impunity, effectively respond to GBVF, and facilitate justice for GBV survivors.
Response, Care, Support, and Healing	1. Strengthened care, support, and healing services that are evidence-based and victim and survivor-centered.
	2. Strengthened advocacy on response, care, promotion, and healing services.
	3. Collaborative and coordinated institutionalized community response systems.
Economic Power	1. Economic security and opportunity for GBVF victims and survivors, including vulnerable groups, enhanced and promoted through accessible, responsive, formal and non-formal education opportunities.

GBVF Strategic Plan Pillars	Five Year Outcomes
	2. Accelerated and sustained initiatives to address GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups' unequal economic and social status.
	3. Established specified entrepreneurship support funds and market development initiatives for GBVF victims and survivors including vulnerable groups.
	4. Strengthened child maintenance and related support systems to address the economic vulnerability of women and children.
Research and Information Management	1. Established and well-coordinated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework aligned to District Development Models, Annual Performance Plans, Provincial Departmental Programmes on GBVF Strategies, CSO GBVF strategies and plans
	2. Established CSO standardized reporting system and portal linked to provincial GBVF information repository.
	3. Improved knowledge management systems for GBVF to inform justice, protection, support and care initiatives through real-time digital information reporting systems.
	4. Researched and published literature on the nature and extent of the impact of GBVF on vulnerable groups, particularly on their socio-economic well-being and mental health wellness.

Implementation Modalities

The implementation modalities outline the strategic roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders to accelerate, amplify and release the vision and outcomes of the strategic plan.

- The Provincial Council on GBVF, a multi-sectorial structure championed by the Premier is the mandated custodian of the plan, whose role is oversight for the realization of the five-year strategic outcomes.

- All spheres of government are required to align their strategic plans with the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 strategic outcomes.
- All spheres of government are required to provide adequate non-financial and financial resources for the implementation of the plan.
- All civil-society stakeholders whose vision and strategic objectives are responsive to GBVF are required to synchronize their plans with the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029.
- All the Rapid Response Task Teams in all spheres of government are required to identify their role as informed by the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029.
- The private sector is encouraged to identify a role that they can play in enhancing the implementation of the plan by availing non-financial and financial support.
- All chapter nine (9) institutions are expected to identify their role in so far as oversight is concerned, including active monitoring of the implementation plan.



Some of the MP GBVF Summit Delegates: Mr. M Mampuru (MP Director-General) Kgosi Mathupa Mokoena (CONTRALESA President) Nkosikati E Nkosi (Msogwaba Traditional Council)

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Mpumalanga Provincial Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide is born of a need to provide a multi-sectorial strategic framework as a tool that would serve as a point of reference in all efforts that are aimed at addressing the impact of GBVF. This MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 was developed in recognition of a number of developments pertaining to a developing culture of violence disproportionately affecting women and children in South Africa, inter alia the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence, which itself was founded on women's constitutional rights in so far as freedom from all forms of violence is concerned, and of many legislative frameworks as well as civil society interventions persuading both the private and public sector to develop a coherent and well-coordinated response to violence and killing of women and children mainly by not only men but men who are known to the women, some are life partners, husbands, uncles and so forth.

As indicated in chapter two of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029, the strategic plan is premised on Mpumalanga contextual realities of the nature and drivers of the GBVF scourge which can mainly be categorized as economic, social, cultural psychological factors contributing to GBVF prevalence in the province. The problems, the objectives, and the outcomes that are envisaged in the MPSP-GBVF are outlined in chapter three. Further to this outline, the processes undertaken in the development of the Strategic plan, vision, mission, principles, strategic goals, and the six pillars are provided in chapter four. Whereas monitoring and evaluation imperatives are dwelt on in chapter four, in chapter five issues of the strategic plan implementation are detailed. The conclusion and references are provided in chapters six and seven respectively.

1.2 BACKGROUND

Many studies such as the Global Gender Gap Report 2020, paint a bleak picture of the extent and prevalence of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in South Africa, suggesting that the country is facing what Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of the country refers to as the second pandemic after the COVID 19. In all communities, whether rural villages or urban across race and socio-economic status, women tend to predominantly suffer the most horrific and horrendous incidents of physical, sexual, and other forms of violence unabated. Some recent reports on Gender-Based Violence suggest that almost fifty (50%) women died at the hands of people known to them, of which about twenty (20%) are intimate partners. The Global Gender Report Gap of 2020 indicates that 38% of women in South Africa experience physical and sexual violence perpetrated by their intimate

partners. This number is the highest in a country that is not at war. South Africa is ranked number two in the incidence of GBVF, after the Middle East and North Africa, in countries that are plunged into civil wars, though South Africa is regarded as not at war.

A STATS SA report (Crimes against Women in South Africa, 2019) suggest that South Africa suffers from triple challenges, which are inequality, poverty and unemployment. These structural challenges and other observed socio-economic status quo worsen the challenge of GBVF through increasing vulnerability and susceptibility to sexual violence and abuse.

The social and economic inequalities exist and women are disproportionately affected compared to their male counterparts. Further, women in the mining and tourism sectors are generally paid lower salaries than their counterparts hence the need for a call for equal pay for equal work and the promotion of decent work across all sectors.

Furthermore, based on various literature review conducted on GBVF-related issues, it was observed that there is a direct correlation between GBVF and socio-economic conditions, characteristics and overall environment. South Africa was hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, just like any other country in the past two years (2020-2022).

Mpumalanga as one of the provinces in South Africa is not immune to the scourge of GBVF and the triple challenges, namely poverty, inequality and unemployment plaguing the country. The Socio Economic Report Outlook (SERO) September 2022 indicates the following with regard to the triple challenges:

- Strict unemployment rate stood at 36.1% and the expanded unemployment rate at 48.1% in the second quarter;
- Unemployment rate amongst women was estimated at 41.16%;
- Level of income inequality depicted a Gini-coefficient¹ of 0.61; and
- Poverty rate amongst women of all ages was recorded at more than 50% in 2021.

1.2.1 Mpumalanga Demographics and Socio Economic Status

According to STAT SA (Census, 2022), the population of Mpumalanga is estimated above 4, 4 million, of which 2.3 million were females constituting 51.37% of the total population. The Province has three districts namely Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala and estimated population per each district is as follows:

¹ Gini coefficient, measures income distribution across a population.

Table 2: Mpumalanga population per district

District	Male Population	Female Population
Nkangala District	50.37%	49.63%
Ehlanzeni District	47.1%	52.9%
Gert Sibande District	50%	50%

In spite of South Africa making strides in uplifting women's rights in the country, GBVF remains unacceptably high and potentially reverses the gains made in advancing women's rights. Patriarchy, cultural, religious, social and economic factors play a role in driving GBVF.

Mpumalanga like any other Province in South Africa is not spared from the societal challenge of GBVF, mainly rooted in historical apartheid policies, underpinned by high levels of inequality and poverty, racism, unequal gender power relations, and hostility to sexual orientations and non-tolerance to diversity.

Below are some of the sexual offence cases reported to South African Police Services between 2021 and 2022 periods:

1.2.2 Sexual Offences Status in Mpumalanga Province.

In terms of the South African Police Services (SAPS) quarterly (January -March) reports for periods 2020/2021 and 2021/2022, illustrate the statistics on reported sexual offenses below:

Table 3: Reported Sexual Offenses in Mpumalanga

Period of reporting	Mpumalanga	National
January- March 2021	641	9518
January- March 2022	746	10818
Count Difference	105	1300
% Change	16,4%	13,7%

Source: SAPS Fourth Quarter Report 2021 and Fourth Quarter Report 2022

The above table illustrates that Mpumalanga Province has recorded increasing incidents of GBVF-related cases. Between the periods January to March of 2021, six hundred and forty-one cases of sexual offenses were reported in Mpumalanga, accounting for almost 6.7% of the national count of reported sexual offenses. In 2022, in the same quarter, the Province

accounted for almost 7% of the nationally reported sexual offenses cases. Of these reported cases, the National Prosecuting Authority Report (2019/2020) indicates that 65% were referred for prosecution, but 34.4% were accepted for prosecution, 18.5% went for trial and of this, only 8.6% were finalized with a guilty verdict of a sexual offense.

In Mpumalanga, a rather improving situation has been recorded in 2020 as far as the rate of prosecution is concerned. According to Lowvelder (2020, November 30), at least there has been an increase of 6% in the finalization of sexual offenses with a guilty verdict. It is further reported that the Nelspruit Family Violence and Child Protection Unit performed well, taking position one in the province, and was named one of the best at number four in the country as far as handling cases of GBVF.

The cases of contact crimes and sexual offenses below are indicative of the magnitude of GBVF in the Province, though, during the development of the strategic plan, it was not possible to segregate data according to sex, age, level of education, level of income and other social status. The crime category exhibited critical data on the vulnerability of women and children exposed to GBVF.

The below table paints a gloomy picture of the situation of GBVF in Mpumalanga Province on a number of contact crimes and sexual offenses. Further details on the statistics are provided in Table 3.

Table 4: Mpumalanga Provincial Contact Crimes

Crime Category	Jan-Mar 2017/18	Jan-Mar 2018/19	Jan-Mar 2019/20	Jan-Mar 2020/21	Jan-Mar 2021/22	Count Diff	% Change
Contact Crimes (Crimes Against the Person)							
Murder	236	260	239	239	276	37	15,5%
Sexual Offences	809	916	790	762	898	136	17,8%
Attempted murder	212	254	283	239	373	134	56,1%
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	2618	2957	2628	2270	2780	510	22,5%
Common assault	1828	2204	2131	1917	2160	243	12,7%
Common robbery	555	625	584	475	458	-17	-3,6%
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	1520	1703	1854	1958	2188	230	11,7%
Total Contact Crimes (Crimes Against the Person)	7778	8919	8509	7860	9133	1273	16,2%

Crime Category	Jan-Mar 2017/18	Jan-Mar 2018/19	Jan-Mar 2019/20	Jan-Mar 2020/21	Jan-Mar 2021/22	Count Diff	% Change
Total Sexual Offences							
Rape	680	767	658	641	746	105	16,4%
Sexual Assault	66	105	85	88	113	25	28,4%
Attempted Sexual Offences	39	28	31	20	20	0	0,0%
Contact Sexual Offences	24	16	16	13	19	6	46,2%
Total Sexual Offences	809	916	790	762	898	136	17,8%

Source: SAPS Fourth Quarter Report 2021

The above table exhibits steady increase in sexual offense cases with 28.4% increase in the period January to March 2022 compared to the same period from the previous year and rape cases increased by 16.4% over the same period. Of all these reported cases, number of completed cases is still unknown, and suspected offenders made to account for their offenses. The current incidence rate is around 16 per 100,000, which is relatively high.

The actual figures indicated above may be not a true reflection of GBVF related cases owing to non-reporting of cases for various reasons, inter alia lack of confidence in the police, families resolving incidences on their own, afraid of being stigmatized, and the distance from communities and police stations (just to mention a few). In some of the reported cases of rape, the victims wait too long due to delayed justice system processes and end up withdrawing the cases.

1.2.3 Key Drivers of GBVF

The most prevalent drivers of GBVF include:

- I. Patriarchal attitudes, behaviors and practices;
- II. Social, cultural and religious gender norms and discrimination;
- III. Structural gender inequality;
- IV. Historical injustices that have created structural poverty and high unemployment rate in poor rural communities;
- V. Economic and social inequality.

Mpumalanga Province is not exempted from pervasive patriarchal norms that perpetuate, reassure and use GBVF as an acceptable social practice. Especially so, because the

province is predominantly rural and is entrenched in cultural, traditional, and religious practices and social norms that may be distorted to expose women and children to violence. This in turn feeds into the destructive attitudes and beliefs that result in toxic masculinities² that promote ideas of male control over women, male sexual entitlement, risk-taking and anti-social behaviors, and inequitable gender attitudes that subordinate women to men. Amongst the contributing factors to violence are the high availability and circulation of illicit drugs, substance abuse, and the inability to navigate mental health challenges. This was highlighted and emphasized in all the consultative meetings and focus group discussions conducted throughout the province.

1.2.4 The Impact of GBVF in the Province

The impact of high prevalence of GBVF in the Province hits hard on women and children. Among others these are:

- I. **Violent Children Behaviors:** Children exposed to and experiencing GBVF are likely to display increased bullying behavioral patterns towards others in schools and the community. Other children with the same exposure display poor interpersonal relations, aggressive behavior, depression, anxiety, and anti-social behaviors.
- II. **Increased illicit drug and substance use and abuse:** The impact of the use and abuse is two-fold, in some incidences of intimate partner violence (IPV) and domestic violence (DV) result in children and victims or perpetrators using illicit drugs and substances as a coping mechanism. On others, the same use and abuse of drugs and substances result in IPV and DV.
- III. **Unintended and Unwanted Pregnancies:** Increased sexual abuse of women and girls leads to unwanted pregnancies and illegal abortions. These have a negative impact on their sexual reproductive health.
- IV. **Academic Performance:** DV and IPV affect the time for studies, resulting in poor academic performance due to psychological and emotional trauma, and increased absenteeism as they seek health or legal services.
- V. **Reduced Workplace Productivity:** GBVF affects job performance and leads to lateness, decreased job retention, and career advancement. Victims of gender discrimination and sexual harassment lose the motivation and moral prerequisite to performing their duties effectively.

² Community focus group discussion with CSO leaders and programme officers from Department in the province (6/10/2022)

- VI. **Negative Economic Impact:** GBVF has high-cost implications on the economy including; amongst others, cost of health services, justice, and other services, loss of earnings and revenues as people attend health and justice services, and loss/reduced tax revenue for government. Additionally, the second-generation costs, which are the cost of children witnessing and living with violence, such as increased juvenile and adult crime burdens the criminal justice system.
- VII. **Mental Health:** The risk of developing depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) issues, including suicidal tendencies may be higher in women who experienced GBVF.
- VIII. **Decrease in Participation of Women in the Labour Market:** Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Domestic Violence (DV) have significant health problems for women, with consequences extending to negatively affecting their functionality and productivity at work as was in society at large.
- IX. **High dependency on Government and its resources:** Many children become orphans due to GBVF and remain without parents hence they have to fully depend on government grants, free education, and many other things.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), domestic violence, and sexual harassment also affect women's full and active participation in the labour market. As many women experiencing domestic violence end up leaving their employment³ or are denied access to the labour market or to go to work at the time of such violence either because they would be trying to conceal injuries or bruises and the husbands or partner denies them to go to work or to be in the public.

In an effort to tighten the rule of law at the national level as a deterrent to address and eliminate GBVF, three existing laws were amended in 2021:

- I. The Domestic Violence Amendment Bill
- II. Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill
- III. Criminal (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Bill

The amendments collectively aimed to tackle three main issues:

- I. Challenges with obtaining protection orders;

³ <https://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/1937-domestic-violence-and-its-impact-on-the-world-of-work-.html> Accessed 10/09/2022

- II. Sub-standard bail conditions for suspects; and
- III. Police do not regard domestic violence with the seriousness it deserves.

However, these efforts are marred by a myriad of highly complex and structurally embedded conditions that face the Province and South Africa at large and it seeps into the community, household, and individual environment. These conditions include:

- I. The persistence of social and economic inequalities
- II. Pervasive patriarchal norms assimilating the use of violence as an acceptable social practice.

This is not limited to Mpumalanga Province but runs across all Provinces. South African society is deeply violent and continues to wrestle with the impact of decades of institutionalized sexism, exclusion, structural violence, and other factors that have continued to undermine human development and positive social cohesion⁴.

As a nation, South Africa has called for increased government commitment to eliminate GBVF by ensuring that interventions are developed and integrated into broader government planning processes and that the necessary resources are made available to address GBVF in ways that yield concrete and tangible results.

Importantly, drawing from the experiences of GBVF victims and survivors, this strategy provides an excellent illustration of what Mpumalanga Province can achieve when working together by stopping violence before it happens. The strategy has been developed through a series of data collection to contextualize the magnitude of the GBVF at the national and provincial levels.

⁴ Segalo, Puleng. (2015). Gender, social cohesion and everyday struggles in South Africa. *Psychology in Society*, (49), 70-82.
<https://dx.doi.org/10.17159/2309-8708/2015/n49a6>



Mr Mampuru, the Mpumalanga Province Director-General addressing the MP GBVF Summit 2022



Leading the MP GBVF Summit 2022 coordination team: Ms. Shongwe N

2 THE PREMISES OF THE MPUMALANGA STRATEGIC PLAN ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE FRAMEWORK

This chapter comprises the problem statement, theoretical departure, development processes, strategic goal, and six pillars of the Mpumalanga Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029)

2.1 Problem Statement

Mpumalanga Province, like many other provinces in South Africa, has been plagued with violence, especially domestic violence manifesting in various forms such as physical violence categorized in terms of the relevant legislative framework as assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (GBH), Femicide categorized as murder, verbal and emotional abuse categorized as crimen injuria, rape and so forth. Despite the fact that South Africa's GBVF prevalence is regarded as one of the highest in the world as captured by international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equity and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) amongst others, South Africa, it has taken a push by civic society to drag the government into setting up a national GBVF summit in 2018, which culminated into the very first development of a national strategic plan on GBVF. This development has paved the way for the provinces to follow suit in developing their very first GBVF strategic plan. As would have been expected, Mpumalanga did not have a collective, multi-sectoral, comprehensive strategic plan on GBVF until 2022 when processes were initiated to develop contextualized GBVF responses. As indicated in the introduction that Mpumalanga like any other Province in South Africa is not spared from the societal challenge of GBVF, mainly rooted in historical apartheid policies, underpinned by high levels of inequality and poverty, racism, unequal gender power relations, and hostility to sexual orientations and non-tolerance to diversity.

2.2 Development of the MPSP-GBVF2024-2029

In 2022, Mpumalanga Province embarked on a consultative process, visiting various stakeholders in their respective communities leading to a GBVF summit attended by a whole range of stakeholders ranging from the business sector, civic organizations, government departments, municipalities, and so forth. Armed with inputs from a huge turnout for the summit and cooperation from almost all key stakeholders, the Office of the Premier began consolidating all the inputs and penned down what would become the very first consolidated, conscience and multi-sectoral response to GBV, call Mpumalanga Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (MPSP-GBVF) .

The MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 is therefore, aligned, integrated and harmonized to the National Strategic Plan on GBVF, prioritizing specific issues for Mpumalanga Province, as it seeks to address the impact of GBVF on the provincial social and economy and the livelihoods of its citizens particularly women, children, marginalized groups and key vulnerable populations.

Mpumalanga Provincial Strategic Implementation Plan on GBVF has been developed with key interventions and targets to respond to the issues of GBVF as raised in the Strategy. These interventions include issues raised in the Provincial Summit on GBVF.

Vision

A Province that is peaceful, safe, and free from all forms of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

Mission

To review, contextualize and align policies, budgets, programs, and initiatives of different sectors to integrate Gender-Based Violence and Femicide prevention and mitigation priorities relevant to the respective constitutional mandates in a coordinated, complementary and holistic manner drawing on a multi-sectoral approach.

Principles

The MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 Implementation Plan is program-based on the acceleration and amplification of GBVF prevention, response, care, and support under the aspiration of the NSP's six pillars. The priority focus areas of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 are aligned to the Six National Strategic Pillars mentioned below.

Strategic Goal

To provide a provincial multi-sectoral, coherent strategic policy and programming framework for a coordinated provincial response to the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide ensuring adaptability on new innovations for a GBVF-free Province. The focus is on strengthening policy development and implementation centered on a skilled, passionate, and sustainable human resource that has to be built through recruiting, retaining, training/re-skilling, and supporting programs. The process connects, communicates and monitors all spheres of government and relevant stakeholder's internal and external environment to

ensure the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 implementation processes and structures remain in line with the province's expectations, policies and practices, by doing the following:

- I. Strengthening and building capacity of GBVF practitioners and champions across provincial government, municipalities, CSO's and private sector.
- II. Improved MPG and stakeholder communications through all levels of operation and implementation of the GBVF Strategic Plan.
- III. Mobilize resources for effective implementation of the MPSP-GBVF 2024- 2029.
- IV. Functional Task Teams on GBVF at all spheres of government to be co-chaired by the Premier/ Executive Mayors and the GBVF -CSOs.
- V. Credible research, planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

2.3. The Six Pillars upon which the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 is premised.

(a) Pillar 1: Accountability, Coordination, and Leadership

The pillar highlights the critical role of all government spheres and stakeholders to create an enabling environment for GBVF victims, survivors, and those at risk by putting in place relevant sustainable policies, strategies, and programs. It aims at improving the capacity to deliver well-co-ordinated services and improving multi-sectoral coordination and governance related to GBVF in the Province. The Pillar requires the appointment of a political champion to provide leadership in the fight against GBVF, to be led by the Department of Community Safety Security and Liaison. This highlights the importance of political leadership in driving the change and ensuring that public institutions are responsive and proactive in tackling GBVF.

The table below summarizes the identified problems, objectives, and envisaged outcomes in response to GBVF in Mpumalanga.

Table 5: Identified Issues/Problems, Objectives and Outcomes

Identified Problem	Mpumalanga Province has variant program initiatives that are not coordinated, aligned, and integrated into the provincial context, presenting a challenge to monitor and implement GBVF prevention index indicators. There is a need for coordinated, multi-sectoral interventions to implement GBVF initiatives that drive inclusive prevention, care, and support of victims and survivors.
Objectives	1. Political champion for GBVF is assigned.
	2. Leadership accountability and oversight focus is strengthened.

	3. GBVF-Task Teams are established and functional at the local, district, and provincial levels.
Outcomes	1. Strengthened leadership and accountability across various provincial government departments including political, traditional, and religious sectors to strategically and effectively respond to GBVF in a coherent way with sufficient human and financial resources to support the implementation of programs.
	2. Well-coordinated multi-sectoral and partnership-based response to GBVF through collaboration between provincial government departments, funding partners, CSOs, women and men movements, faith-based organizations, traditional authorities, and the business sector to ensure effective delivery of the strategy.

(b) Pillar 2: Prevention and Rebuilding Social Cohesion.

Evidence has shown that no single sector or organization can adequately address all elements of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide prevention and response. Data reviewed indicated that interventions in the Province cannot be uniform across the three district municipalities. Therefore, in view of the different geographical expansion opportunities influenced by the local GBVF prevalence and drivers, prevention and response service providers, and networks, the interventions should be localized.

There is no vaccine that will end GBVF, therefore, there is a need for building alliances and networks working with different population groups. Networks enable flexibility in responding to social and structural drivers and causes of GBVF, in strengthening prevention and response mechanisms to identify and leverage the potential to harness the existing partnerships that guide the selection of sites either by ward, police station, or magisterial district coverage.

As a longstanding concern that is rooted in gender inequality and which no society or community is immune to, violence against women in all its forms increases during social and economic crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, political instabilities, and natural disasters. The following behaviour change communication and community social systems that reinforce efforts, which include psychosocial support initiatives are critical:

- I. **Dealing with GBVF risk factors, and social and structural drivers:**
Understanding the causes and drivers of GBVF in each district through baseline studies is key to developing and determining appropriate interventions.
- II. **Support and expand policies, programmes, and strategies that promote gender equality in social norms, attitudes, and behaviors that address the root causes of violence:** It is critical to engage men and boys' forums, traditional leaders and healers, faith-based leaders, community leaders, and other community members in challenging and transforming patriarchal norms, practices, and beliefs that justify violence against women. This is in alignment with the Revised MTSF 2019-2024 Priority 6: Social Cohesion and safe Communities.
 - a. The Chapter 9 institutions are to strengthen their monitoring mechanisms on faith-based organizations, traditional leaders, and traditional healers. No leader with a history or record of sexual abuse should be allowed to take up an office of trust. This should also apply to police officers, nurses, teachers, prosecutors, and others with records or history of GBVF-related cases.
- III. **Curb illicit drug and substance abuse:** One of the major concerns is the increasing prevalence of illicit drug and substance abuse which undermines prevention interventions. Responsive measures to address illicit drug and substance abuse, leveraging on multi-sectoral coordination to extend comprehensive friendly services, such as rehabilitation centres, will need to be strengthened.

Table 6: Identified Issues/Problems, Objectives and Outcomes

Identified Problem	There is inadequate well-coordinated functional victim and survivor centred approaches and initiatives in the Province. There is general poor knowledge, attitude and practice towards GBVF in all community settings in addressing range of risks factors, socioeconomic and structural drivers of GBVF resulting in cases of GBVF either normalized or glamorised by community systems
Objectives	1. Partnership for increased capacity building of community systems strengthened.
	2. Behaviour, social norms, toxic masculinities and toxic femininities changed.

	3. Services and programs to make community public space safe and violence free for all implemented and coordinated.
	4. Communities reporting on GBVF incidences enhanced.
Outcomes	1. Strengthened partnership and community systems to implement research-based evidence that is contextualized through GBVF prevention programs.
	2. Community-wide understanding of the negative impact of GBVF achieved.
	3. Empowered communities taking collective responsibility to eliminate GBVF.
	4. Moral regeneration and transformed communities.
	5. Strengthened transformation of toxic social norms which perpetuate violence against the powerless within societies.
	6. Public spaces made safe and violent free for all
	7. Best practice shared and benchmarked for improved prevention interventions on LGBTQIA+ and persons with disabilities.

(c) Pillar 3: Justice, Safety, and Protection

On the 5th of May 2022, the National Department of Justice and Correctional Services, officially launched the "Year of the Community" campaign in Carolina, Mpumalanga. The focus of the campaign was on the scourge of GBVF in line with access to criminal justice and constitutional imperatives. The Mpumalanga Provincial Government is to follow up and drum up this *Imbizos* program throughout the province starting within the location of hot spots of GBVF. These involve dialogues to break the cycle of GBVF aimed among other things to:

- I. Encourage men to be positive role models and mentors in our communities.
- II. SAPS, Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Department of Justice and Correctional Services to continue with *Imbizos* on GBVF.
- III. Increase access to an effective, fair, and transparent criminal justice system.
- IV. Addressing secondary victimization of GBVF victims by the criminal justice system.
- V. Effective implementation and capacitation of all legislation relating to GBVF.
- VI. Positively redefine manhood by challenging and breaking down negative stereotypes.

The GBV Command Centre (GBVCC) operates under the Department of Social Development operating at the National level on a 24hr/7-day-a-week Call Centre facility and this facility can be replicated at the provincial level.

The proposed critical areas are to address the following priorities in the next five years:

- I. Strengthened capacity within the criminal justice system to address all impunity, effectively respond to Femicide and facilitate justice for GBVF victims and survivors.
- II. All GBVF victims and survivors are able to access efficient and sensitive criminal justice services.
- III. Effective community participation in the review of legislation related to GBVF at the national level-leaving no one behind.
- IV. Adherence and compliance to the newly amended legislation in respect of GBVF. Intensified awareness of the new amendments in the legislation for continuous advocacy.

Table 7: Identified Issues/Problems, Objectives and Outcomes

Identified Problem:	There is reported increase in the cases of GBVF, with high withdrawal rate due to the general delay in DNA test results. In many cases police encourage resolution of domestic and intimate partner violence at home increasing the chances of Femicide. Therefore, all cases reported or in contact with the police officer should be referred to the GBVF desk, recorded, investigated and exhausted legally within the legal framework of the human rights approaches.
Objectives	1.Victim and survivor centred services and advocacy for change strengthened. 2.Incidence of GBVF eliminated.
Outcomes	1.Strengthened capacity within the justice, safety and protection units/system to response to GBVF-related matters and facilitate justice for GBV survivors. 2.Improved referral systems for prosecution of perpetrators and rehabilitation of offenders for support structures for Victims and survivors to build confidence in the justice system. 3.Improved access to survivor support services through a victim centric criminal justice service that is sensitive to and meet their needs. 4.Reduced turnaround time for GBVF case conclusion.

5.Strengthened capacity within the criminal justice system to address all impunity, effectively respond to GBVF and facilitate justice for GBV survivors.

(d) Pillar 4: Response, Care, Support, and Healing

When it comes to preventing and reducing violence and supporting survivors, we all have a part to play, particularly in these unprecedented times of escalating violence in our communities, especially GBVF cases. It is critical that all efforts should set out to ensure that every victim and survivor of GBVF has access to appropriate response, care, support, and healing that facilitate comprehensive immediate medium to long-term interventions towards recovery. The pillar focuses on:

- I. Strengthening existing services and systems and where necessary introducing other innovations to improve relationships between stakeholders.
- II. Designing, constructing and bolstering resilience through harnessing the individual, households, communities and institutions' skills and capacities to play important roles in responding to and supporting GBVF victim and survivors.

A number of proposed key priorities for this pillar include:

- I. ***Expansion of helplines and information sharing-*** Is critical to share widely through guides, resources, and advocacy targeting friends, family and community members.
- II. ***Funding shelters and other safe accommodation options for survivors-*** Secure adequate funding for existing shelters and for expansion to include family-friendly facilities. Shelter-based programs to empower beneficiaries. Exploring possible alternative sheltering interventions such as men's shelters and second-stage (transitional) housing.
- III. ***Expansion of access to services for survivors-*** All victims and survivors of GBVF have limited personal mobility and freedom of movement. Therefore, expanding and exploring alternative ways of accessing services is imperative. That includes introducing "pop-up" reporting centres in strategic locations such as shopping malls and other public spaces.
- IV. ***Limiting risk factors associated with violence-*** Alcohol and substance abuse are directly and indirectly correlated to the intensity of GBVF incidences. Targeted workshops and awareness campaigns specifically aimed at addressing the high impact of alcohol abuse on GBVF and other social ills are imperative.

Most Femicide incidences are committed using both licensed and unlicensed firearms. Therefore, it is critical that any individual who is suspected of committing or has committed any violent act is dispossessed permanently of their firearm and blacklisted. Robust advocacy and lobbying for the review of the Fire Arms Act and related legislation to reduce access to firearm ownership should be pursued.

Table 8: Identified Issues/Problems, Objectives and Outcomes

Identified Problem:	Budgetary constraints, inadequate provision for reasonable accommodation shelter for persons with disabilities and families, and insufficient capacity for GBVF practitioners and champions particularly in rural and farming communities. Inadequate co-ordinating efforts and structures constitute barriers towards response, care, support, and healing.
Objectives	1. Increased government budget allocation and funding for GBVF responses are advocated. 2. Relationships and trust between response, care support, and healing stakeholders are enhanced and improved. 3. Coordination, supervision, and implementation of capacity building of families and communities in dealing with GBVF at the community level and their support in healing and support process-victims, survivors, and offenders improved. 4. Bolstering resilience through harnessing the capacity of the criminal justice system and its collaboration with GBVF key stakeholders in the response, care, support, and healing sector built.
Outcomes	1. Strengthened care, support, and healing services that are evidence-based and victim and survivor-centered. 2. Strengthened advocacy on response, care, support, and healing services. 3. Collaborative and coordinated institutionalized community response systems.

(e) Pillar 5: Economic Power.

This Pillar is aligned to the Revised MTSF 2019- 2024 Priority 2: Economic transformation and Job Creation. Poor access to entrepreneurship development funding, micro-credit

finance for GBVF victims, survivors, and those at risk of GBVF enterprise startups, working capital, and expansion prevents them from engaging in meaningful entrepreneurship, as a pathway to improve their economic status. The barriers include the requirements for collateral, which most women in the province cannot yet mobilize. As a result of this and other issues, there is a poor entrepreneurial culture among women and young women coupled with a lack of business skills, limited business mentorship/incubation programs, and a lack of both financial and non-financial skills. Key priority areas are:

- I. **Education and skills development:** Increase access to quality education and relevance of the curricula working with Skills Education and Training Authority (SETA), Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET).
- II. **Entrepreneurship and Business Development:** Facilitate access to micro-credit finance for GBVF victims and survivors including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ (vulnerable groups).
- III. **Land ownership and Property rights:** Land ownership needs to be considered as a priority for GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups.
- IV. **Financial support, mentorship, and incubation:** Financing remains the main handicap for startup ventures among GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups. Mechanisms must be in place to incentivize the provision of capital for GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups' startups by the financial sector, illustrated in Table 3 below.

Table 9: Proposed financial support, mentorship and incubation model

Skills Categories	Purpose	Methodology
Workforce Readiness	To support GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups in finding and securing employment, and succeeding within the workplace and protect them from workplace-based violence.	1. Team-based 2. Project-based
Soft Skills	To support GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups as they integrate and collaborate with internal and external workplace	3. Practical application

Skills Categories	Purpose	Methodology
	stakeholders, such as customers, co-workers, and management.	4. Job shadowing
Technical Skills	To give GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups technical or domain expertise to perform job-specific tasks.	5. Mentorship 6. Coaching
Entrepreneurship and Job creation	To support GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups in establishing their own sustainable businesses and supporting entry into freelance, contract work, and/or developing as a self-starter within a work environment.	7. Incubation
Access to Market	Facilitate and support business linkages with potential markets, and regulatory and membership bodies. Register businesses onto the various databases.	

Mpumalanga Provincial Government GBVF Financial Support, Mentorship, and Incubation Model 2023

The range of support should target key areas in priority value chains that have the greatest multiplier effects on provincial and national levels, including through grants, debt financing, and loan guarantee schemes, as well as mentoring and incubation arrangements.

Table 10: Identified Issues/Problems, Objectives and Outcomes

Identified Problem	Poverty is a risk factor associated with GBVF, it also often intersects with and reinforces gender inequality. There are limited microfinance and economic empowerment approaches to address the intersection of poverty and GBVF.
Objectives	1. GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups' participation in the Labour market facilitated and strengthened. 2. Micro finance and economic empowerment programs coordinated.
Outcomes	1. Economic security and opportunity-GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups' core skills, competencies and attributes are

	enhanced and promoted through accessible, responsive, formal and non-formal education and learning opportunities.
	2. Accelerated and sustained initiatives to address GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups' unequal economic and social status.
	3. Established specified entrepreneurship support fund and market development initiatives for GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups.
	4. Victims and survivors of GBVF are not reliant on the economic status of the former, or current intimate partners and such relationship is monitored to prevent tactical emotional, and seductive abuse.

(f) Pillar 6: Research and Information Management (Monitoring and Evaluation)

The NSP-GBVF refers to systemic failures by all spheres of government to provide services to protect, care, support, and attain justice for victims and survivors of GBVF, the Province of Mpumalanga is not exonerated. There is inaccuracy in reporting and data capturing due to a lack of desegregated data, and non-coordinated and non-standardized reporting by different stakeholders.

Table 11: Identified Issues/Problems, Objectives, and Outcomes

Identified Problem:	There is no coordinated reporting and standardized case definition of all forms of GBVF, nor adequate data to determine incidence rates and prevalence of baseline data. Also, there are inadequate strategic, multi-disciplinary, research, and integrated information systems on GBVF resulting in the province not being able to adequately plan, allocate budget, and identify and expand scalable GBVF-related program initiatives.
Objectives	1. Sharing research findings and utilization thereof optimized. 2. Strategic multi-disciplinary research and integrated information systems on GBVF coordinated. 3. Database on GBVF cases available.
Outcomes	1. Provincial established and well-coordinated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework aligned to District Development Models, Annual Performance Plans, Provincial Departmental Programs on GBVF Strategies, CSO GBVF strategies and plans (refer to M&E framework last chapter of this strategy).

2. Established institutionalized GBVF information repository coordinated and managed by the Office of the Premier.
3. An established CSO standardized reporting system and portal linked to the provincial GBVF information repository.
4. Real-time information reporting systems for improved knowledge management systems for GBVF to inform justice, protection, support and care initiatives.

2.5 Summary

Other than presenting the problem to which MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 is envisaged to address, the chapter focused on identified problems, objectives, and anticipated outcomes of the strategic plan. Further, a theoretical departure on the basis of which the changes that are needed are explained in terms of the theory of change, followed by the processes embarked on leading to the development and the goal of the strategic plan. Lastly, the six pillars are presented within the contextual imperatives of the nature and peculiarity of the Mpumalanga citizenry as a largely rural and characterized by psycho-socio-economic factors which have to be dealt with in all efforts aimed at addressing the impact of GBVF.



The mood of the delegates in the MP GBVF Summit in 2022

3 MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

3.1 Introduction

To achieve the desired outcomes of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029, it is imperative that effective implementation imperatives are adequately addressed. To this extent, the key stakeholder's roles and responsibilities need to be outlined. Hierarchically, the office of the premier in the province is first to receive attention as far as its roles and responsibilities are. Government institutions (provincial departments, municipalities, chapter nine offices, civic

3.2 The Role and Responsibility of the Office of the Premier

The premier's office is regarded as the highest in the hierarchy of stakeholders, and is expected to ensure the following:

- I. Serve as the custodian of the Mpumalanga Provincial Strategic Plan on GBVF 2024- 2029.
- II. Coordinate and supports the effective implementation of the GBVF strategy.
- III. Promote bold leadership and strengthened accountability across all spheres of government and civil society.
- IV. Facilitate, guide, and assist in conducting GBVF-related research, planning, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, and learning in partnership with tertiary, research, and government institutions and CSOs.
- V. Ensures accountability on the implementation of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 across all spheres of government and relevant stakeholders.

3.3 Mpumalanga Government Institutions

In this context, government institutions would be seen as referring to all provincial government departments, all municipalities within the local government sphere, and by extension, agencies of the state, and so forth.

3.3.1 Provincial Government Departments

Second, to the hierarchy of stakeholders, government departments in their current and future configuration are expected to fulfil the following role and responsibilities:

- I. Develop and incorporate GBVF indicators into Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans, Integrated Development Plans, Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plans;
- II. Develop GBVF Implementation Plans that are aligned to MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029;

- III. Include GBVF-related Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in the Performance Agreements of all political leaders, Accounting Officers, Senior Managers and Managers in all spheres of government.
- IV. Allocate adequate budgets for the implementation of GBVF Programmes.
- V. Provide appropriate GBVF Champions with relevant skills, experience, and expertise to support implementation of GBVF programmes.
- VI. Create a collaborated all stakeholder inclusive mechanism to effectively and efficiently respond to GBVF cases.
- VII. Provide GBVF progress reports to the Office of the Premier on a regular basis and participate in all coordination meetings.
- VIII. Take leadership and accountability to amplify and accelerate GBVF responses within their constitutional mandate as government institutions.

3.4 Provincial Council of Gender Based Violence and Femicide

- i. Develop an action plan for the implementation of the Provincial Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide which must:
 - a. Be adequately costed and implemented effectively
 - b. Set indicators and timelines to be complied with by all relevant stakeholders;
 - c. Co-ordinate the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the provincial strategic plan addressing GBVF.
- ii. Co-ordinate education and training measures concerning the prevention and combating of GBVF;
- iii. Facilitate strategic partnerships between PCGBVF and relevant stakeholders as and when required;
- iv. In consultation with the Premier, facilitate the establishment of multi-sectoral structures to jointly prevent and respond to GBVF;
- v. Coordinate the prioritisation of GBVF programmes provincially and locally, at other forums as well as community level;
- vi. Advise the Premier on -
 - a. Any developments relating to the prevention of, and response to GBVF;
 - b. Relevant national and international standards to be adhered to;
 - c. Any matters falling within the GBVF.
- vii. Develop education and training programmes on combating GBVF and establish multi-sectoral structures to jointly prevent and respond to GBVF issues.
- viii. Ensure periodic reviews of the Provincial Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (PNS-GBVF) and other related matters.

3.5 Rapid Response Team on GBVF

- i. Provide leadership and coordination on GBVF matters within their jurisdiction.

- ii. Establish and oversee Ward based RRTs, ensuring that they are functioning effectively and aligned to the overall objectives and strategies of the municipality.
- iii. Allocate resources, including funding, personnel, and infrastructure to support the functioning of the RRT.

3.6 Chapter Nine Institutions

The role and responsibilities of all chapter nine institutions somewhat differ from the abovementioned stakeholders as it is expected to undertake a constitutional and oversight mandate including ensuring programme delivery accountability and support of the implementation of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029. It is expected that these offices familiarise themselves with the content of the strategic plan with an intent to draw an oversight mechanism contextualized with the vision, mission, and objectives of the strategic plan to ensure accountability in delivering the expected outcomes. It is expected that each office may submit a report on its oversight role as far as the implementation of the strategic plan is concerned.

3.7 International and Local Co-operating Partners

International and Local Co-operating Partners including UN Agencies, USAID, PEPFAR, Global Fund, the private sector, and other funding partners are expected to provide technical and financial support towards the implementation of MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029.

3.8 Implementation Imperatives

The MPSP on GBVF 2024 – 2029 is an incremental strategy starting from basic social behaviour to complex social, inherent, intersectional issues. This approach aligns with the Comprehensive National Prevention Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (CNPS on GBVF-2032) which focuses on five key areas, the first one being ***behaviour change communication*** across the societies; dealing with safety and security of Victims and survivors and holding the perpetrators to account. GBVF programme initiatives proposed are aligned to the MTSF 2019-24 and Mpumalanga Vision 2030, this strategy is anchored on the six strategic pillars of the National Strategic Plan BGVF.

The implementation of the plan will unfold as proposed:

- I. ***Phase 1 (0-12 months):*** This phase focused on establishing benchmarks and baselines for the GBVF in the Province along the NSP on GBVF six Pillars. During this stage, Mpumalanga will be aggregating the wealth of data on GBVF collected across the Province from the community, provincial government departments and social partners. From this data, the Province will develop insights that inform the

future implementation of the Strategic Plan. This phase also focuses on institutionalizing the plan into government programmes and plans.

- II. **Phase 2 (13-30 months):** This phase builds on phase 1 and will focus on actions that deliver incremental changes which contribute to the achievement of the PSP on GBVF 2023 - 2028. The phase will have an action learning framework of **Plan, Do, Check, Act** to ensure that efforts are concentrated and reflect any changes to the internal and external environment. The phase must furthermore include acceleration, and amplification of interventions and accountability will be strengthened and conducted at the provincial level through the provincial summit on GBVF.
- III. **Phase 3 (31–60 months):** This phase is informed by the mid-term evaluation review of the Strategy, which reviews focuses on phases 1 & 2. It will then capitalize on the changes and achievements from phases 1 & 2, to focus its energy, and resources on the remaining activities needed to achieve Strategy's goals and objectives. All its implementation plans of action will call for the government to look back on what the Province achieved and the lessons learned, and move forward to determine what is still to be done. This is the foundation to begin the process of planning for 2029 and beyond. The end of this phase will also focus on the impact assessment of the MPSP-GBVF.

3.9 Conclusion

A key aspect of creating change is identifying the individuals and community group structures which influence others⁵. Some of these stakeholders from the community may have to join together to form coordinated community-based GBVF forums from the Village level through to the Provincial level, with shared oversight and inter-departments, inter-organizations cooperation that ensures consistent, non-duplicative, and trauma-informed responses for survivors and establishes prevention efforts that are reinforcing, inclusive, and successful in promoting and sustaining change⁶.

Through the collaborative work of these forums/committees, the individuals initiate, adapt, and sustain comprehensive change in their communities. Community groups are necessary for self-sustaining changes.

⁵ Nahmias, A. H., Crawford, L., & Combe, M. (2010). Factors that influence and are influenced by change projects. Paper presented at PMI® Research Conference: Defining the Future of Project Management, Washington, DC. Newtown Square, PA: Project Management Institute.

⁶ https://static.pmg.org.za/DSD_ANNUAL_REPORT_2021-22.pdf

Mpumalanga Province has unique communities, there is no one-size-fits-all strategy for addressing GBVF. Local municipality communities have diverse social, economic and developmental needs and challenges, these communities are distinct, based on their geographic location.

Not only is there variation among community age groups, but there is diversity within communities consisting of LGBTQIA+, people with disabilities, older persons, migrant groups, learners, casual employees, women not in training, education or economically empowered with distinct experiences and needs.

This Provincial Strategy, therefore, is a guide and not a pre-packaged solution. It is designed to assist Mpumalanga Province through a clear structure with goals, open and probing questions, and tools and resources to develop comprehensive district and local district municipality level plans tailored to the needs of each unique local district municipality community.

In order to effectively respond to issues of GBVF, all of us have a key role to play and this fight is not for the government only but it is for everyone who aspires for a Mpumalanga that is peaceful, safe and free from all forms of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

4 MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE MPUMALANGA MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC PLAN ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE (MPSP-GBVF 2024- 2029)

4.1 Introduction

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 are regarded as a critical component of the preceding chapter on the implementation plan. Therefore this chapter outlines the key aspects and pieces of machinery considered to achieve the vision, mission, and objectives stated in chapters two and three above. The whole M&E is intended to provide guidelines for all stakeholders engaged in GBVF responses in the province, and anywhere else, as the case may be. The key aspects dealt with in this chapter are:

- Oversight roles and reporting
- Nature of the monitoring and evaluation framework
- The six pillars key interventions, activities, indicators, time frames, responsibilities, and estimated costs

4.2 Oversight Role and Reporting

The Office of the Premier is the custodian of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 with the main responsibility to ensure effective and efficient implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategic plan. The Premier is entrusted with the responsibility to enter into performance agreements with political heads in the Province and co-chair the Provincial Task Team on GBVF that should drive provincial accountability on all political champions. Similarly, political heads should ensure that the performance agreements of Senior Managers are inclusive of a Key Performance Indicators on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

The Provincial Council on GBVF that is co-chaired by the Premier and a member of CSO, and Rapid Response Teams (RRT's) co-chaired by Executive Mayors and a member of CSO at district and local level provide an oversight role in the implementation of the strategic plan. Any CSO receiving funding from public funds or donors connected to the province enter into performance agreements consistent with the vision, mission and objectives of the MPSP-GBVF 2024 - 2029. Both local and international donors should ensure that part of their criteria for funding is considerate and consistent with the MPSP-GBVF 2024 - 2029. The private sector through their accountability structures using their Corporate Social Responsibility funds should

invest in supporting the roll out of the MPSP-GBVF 2024 -2029. The private sector to monitor, evaluate and report their workplace-based GBVF interventions to the Office of the Premier.

4.3 Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

The strategy adopts a multi-sectoral approach in rolling out interventions on GBVF with clearly defined targets and indicators that are relevant and measurable. All government departments, municipalities, CSO's, private sector and other stakeholders should align their monitoring and evaluation tools to the prescribed MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

The implementation and review of the strategic plan has been developed in alignment with the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to ensure full integration. The implementation modalities are as follows:

- Outcomes within the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 will be integrated into the Departmental five-year Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans;
- At local government level, it will be integrated into Integrated Development Plans;
- Monitoring of the Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will be used to facilitate and monitor the implementation strategic plan.
- Building onto existing structures that are working well at community level that also tackle issues of GBVF will play a key role in outcomes for the strategic plan are translated into meaningful interventions.
- District coordinators will play a key role in monitoring implementation and to drive and support local response;
- Engagement mechanisms will be developed with key strategic partners, including not limited to development partners to play a supportive role in the roll-out of the plan
- The Office of the Premier will play a key oversight role in the overall implementation plan with the ultimate accountability to the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.

4.4 Monitoring and Evaluating the Six Pillars.

For effective monitoring and evaluation, each of the six pillars is paired with compatible strategic outcomes and assigned interventions, activities, indicators, timeframes, and responsibilities, and merged with cost estimates.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

4.4.1 Pillar 1: Accountability, Coordination, and Leadership

Strategic Outcomes:

- I. Strengthened leadership and accountability across various provincial government departments including political, traditional, and religious sectors to effectively respond to GBVF in a coherent manner with sufficient human and financial resources to support the implementation of programmes.
- II. Well-coordinated multi-sectoral and partnership-based response to GBVF through collaboration between provincial government departments, funding partners, CSOs, women and men movements, faith-based organizations, traditional authorities, and the private sector to ensure effective delivery of the strategy.

Key Interventions	Key Activities	Indicator	Timeframe	Responsibility
Strengthen leadership and accountability to effectively respond to GBVF in a coherent manner with sufficient human and financial resources to support	Facilitate the approval of the Mpumalanga Provincial Strategic Plan on GBVF 2024-2029 by the Provincial Executive Council	Approved MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029	November 2024	Office of the Premier
	Establish Provincial Council on GBVF	Functional Provincial Council on GBVF	November 2024	Office of the Premier

Key Interventions	Key Activities	Indicator	Timeframe	Responsibility
implementation of programs.	Establish RRTs at District and Local Municipality Level	Number of municipalities with functional RRTs	October 2024	Municipalities
	Conduct capacity building workshops on GBVF response to Legislature, Provincial Executive Council, Mayoral committee, HoDs and Municipal Managers	Number of training workshops conducted for each level of category.	March 2029	All departments and municipalities
		APPs and SDBIP with GBVF as Key Performance Indicator		
		Number of partnership MoU signed with the International Cooperative Partners (INCP) and other Non-Government partners		
	Integration and expression of GBVF into IDPs, APPs and SDBIPs	Total budget allocation towards GBVF services/Per capita by each structure	March 2029	All departments and municipalities
Well-coordinated multi-sectoral and partnership-based response to GBVF through collaboration between provincial	Inclusion of GBVF indicator as a key performance indicator to Performance Agreements	GBVF performance indicator included to Performance Agreements	March 2025	All departments and municipalities
	Facilitate establishment of a permanent multi-sectoral	Over 50% CSO representation and	March 2029	Office of the Premier

Key Interventions	Key Activities	Indicator	Timeframe	Responsibility
government departments, funding partners, CSOs, women and men movements, faith-based organizations, traditional authorities and business sector to ensure effective delivery of the strategy.	coordinating structure-Provincial Task Team on GBVF	reconstituted with GBVF focused organizations		
		Profiles of CSO with 60% GBVF focus as their main mandates		
	Facilitate department level planning, recruitment and retention of Gender focal persons (GFPs)	Number of positions filled and functional in the provincial departments and municipalities	March 2029	All departments and municipalities
	Convene annual District GBVF dialogues	Annual district dialogues convened	March 2029	District municipalities
	Convene Mpumalanga Provincial GBVF Summit	Number of Mpumalanga Provincial GBVF Summits convened (every 2 nd year)	March 2029	Office of the Premier
	Engage Private sector and funding entities to provide financial and technical support for support	Number of secured sustainable partnership and support to fund the implementation of the MPSP-GBVF	Sept 2029	All departments and municipalities

Key Interventions	Key Activities	Indicator	Timeframe	Responsibility
	Monitor progress on the implementation of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029	Number of progress reports on the implementation of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029	March 2029	Office of the Premier & District Municipalities
	Administer a self-assessment tool to assess progress across implementing government departments and state-owned entities	Baseline Report 2023, indicative progress milestones reporting across implementers of the MPSP-GBVF 2024-2029 onwards	Annually March 2025- March 2029	Commission for Gender Equality

4.4.2 Pillar 2: Prevention, Rebuilding and Social Cohesion

Strategic Outcome:

- I. Empowered communities taking collective responsibility to eliminate GBVF.
- II. Moral regeneration and transformed communities.
- III. Strengthened transformation of toxic social norms which perpetuate violence against the powerless within societies.
- IV. Public spaces made safe and violent free for all
- V. Best practice shared and benchmarked for improved prevention interventions on LGBTQIA+ and persons with disabilities.

Key Intervention	Key Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility
Conduct community training and campaigns on GBVF for increased knowledge among the community. Establish community based GBVF champions working with traditional authorities, traditional healers and religious leaders	Engagement at provincial, district and local level (traditional and religious leaders) and others to address GBVF-Discussions and Report back at meetings	Number of Integrated quarterly Imbizos held	March 2029	DCSSL, DSD, DCSR, COGTA, DOH, DCS All municipalities
	Capacity building of GBVF practitioners	Number of workshops on GBVF	March 2029	All departments and municipalities
	Advocacy and social mobilization targeting various structures in the communities (men and boys, link with men championing change initiatives)	Number of people reached	March 2029	All departments and municipalities, CSO's

Key Intervention	Key Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility
	Implement GBVF programs targeting education institutions	Number of awareness campaigns held	March 2029	All departments & municipalities, CSO's
Establish community based GBVF champions working with traditional authorities, traditional healers and religious leaders	Design GBVF prevention campaigns, dialogues and roadshows at various level	Number of campaigns and dialogues held	March 2029	All departments & municipalities, CSO's
	Establish and expand men and boys' forums to address GBVF	Number of men and boys' groups constituted	March 2029	All departments, municipalities & CSO's
CSO's and Community at the center of GBVF response, care, support and prevention programme initiatives	Establishment of civil society clusters responding to GBVF	Number of civil society clusters responding to GBVF	March 2029	Office of the Premier, Civil society structures
Training of CHW, CDW and other community-based government workers on GBVF response, care, support and prevention (including laws and regulations etc.)	Integrate GBVF prevention into violence and crime prevention	Number of community workers trained	March 2029	All departments and municipalities
	Implementation of Departmental GBVF programs in the communities	Number of community programs implemented		

Key Intervention	Key Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility
Working with faith-based organizations leaders and traditional healers on GBVF to establish roles and responsibilities of culture and religion on GBVF in the Provinces.	Working with faith-based organizations leaders on GBVF and allow churches to develop their annual plans on GBVF	Number of people reached in each church	March 2029	All departments, municipalities, faith-based organizations
	Church GBVF Policy Development & implementation of programs in church and communities	Number of churches involved in the GBVF Programme	March 2029	
	Working with Traditional healers' associations on GBVF	Number of Traditional Healers reached	March 2029	

4.4.3 Pillar 3: Protection, Safety and Justice

Strategic Outcomes:

- I. Improved referral systems for prosecution of perpetrators and rehabilitation of offenders for support structures for victims and survivors to build confidence in the justice system.
- II. Improved access to survivor support services through a victim-centric criminal justice service that is sensitive to and meets their needs.
- III. Reduced turnaround time for GBVF case conclusion.
- IV. Strengthened capacity within the criminal justice system to address all impunity, effectively respond to GBVF and facilitate justice for GBVF victims and survivors.

Key Intervention	Key activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility
Strengthen capacity within the CJS to facilitate justice for GBVF victims and survivors.	Develop or source GBVF accredited learning material for police, prosecution and judiciary teams.	GBVF accredited learning material secured	March 2029	SAPS, DOJ, DCSSL
	Training of the criminal justice service providers (SAPS, prosecutors, magistrates, court preparation officers, intermediaries, health care providers, probation officers) on GBVF related matters.	Number of criminal justice service providers trained		
	Establishment of Victim friendly rooms at all police stations	Number of functional victim friendly rooms established	March 2029	SAPS, DCSSL
	Digitalize GBVF case management system	Number of criminal justice services offices digitalized	March 2029	SAPS, DOJ, DCSSL
	Conduct quarterly meetings on GBVF with criminal justice service providers	Number of quarterly meetings held	March 2029	SAPS, DOJ, DCSSL
Establishment of baseline data on all GBVF related justice, safety and protection with clear data segregation by age, sex,	Develop baseline data sets for standardized reporting	Baseline data set developed	March 2029	SAPS, DOJ

Key Intervention	Key activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility
and other demographic characteristics.				
Improve access and support to the criminal justice system	Conduct sensitization workshops to community liaison outreach community forums for effective service delivery	Number of Police Station with community forums	March 2029	SAPS
	Facilitate the use of digital reporting of case number on real time digital platform-app for data collection, reporting and, monitoring	% of Police Stations using the App for case management	March 2029	SAPS, DOJ
	Improved referral system of victims and survivors of GBVF to prevent secondary victimization.	Number of referred victims and survivors	March 2029	SAPS, DOJ, DSD
	Provide access to Legal Aid Services	Number of victims and survivors accessing Legal Aid Services	March 2029	DOJ, NPA

Key Intervention	Key activities	Indicators	Target	Responsibility
	Re-integration of offenders back to communities, working closely with National Registry of Offenders	% of offenders successfully re-integrated to communities	March 2029	DCS, SAPS, DOJ, DSD, DOH, DCSSL
	Facilitate the resourcing of infrastructure and human capacity for effective service delivery (detective, forensic, investigation and prosecution) at Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) units, Thuthuzela care Centers (TCC) and Sexual Offence Courts (SOCs)	Number of centers resourced and functional	March 2029	DSD, NPA
	Establish provincial forensic laboratory	Provincial laboratory established	March 2029	SAPS, DOJ, DCSSL

4.4.4 Pillar 4: Response, Care Support and Healing

Strategic Outcomes:

- I. Strengthened care, support and healing services that are evidence-based and victim and survivor centered.
- II. Strengthened advocacy on response, care, support, and healing services.
- III. Collaborative and coordinated institutionalized community response systems.

Key Intervention	Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsible
Strengthen existing response, care, support, and healing services that are evidence-based and victim and survivor-centered	Standardization approach to sheltering using the national norms and standards guidelines	Number of registered and compliant shelters	March 2029	DSD
	Implement psycho-social support programmes and the intersectoral policy on the provision of psycho-social services for victims and survivors of GBVF.	Number of GBVF victims and survivors who accessed psycho-social services	March 2029	
	Establishment of local emergency response teams in all municipalities	Number of functional local emergency response teams established	March 2029	DSD, DOJ
	Strengthening of victim impact assessment services	Number of GBVF victims/survivors accessing victim impact assessment services		

Key Intervention	Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsible
	Establishment of a Khuseleka one stop center for GBVF victims and survivors	Number of victim impact reports compiled	March 2029	
Capacity building and reskilling of paralegals, social welfare, teachers, community health workers, police and, judiciaries on GBVF to enhance response, care, support and, healing.	Establishment of a Khuseleka one stop center for GBVF victims and survivors	Number of functional Khuseleka one stop centers established	March 2029	DSD
Capacity building and reskilling of paralegals, social welfare, teachers, community health workers, police and, judiciaries on GBVF to enhance response, care, support and, healing. Provision of psychosocial services through the	Empowerment of community-based organizations to report on GBVF cases and services provided	A number of community-based organizations capacitated	March 2029	DSD
	Strengthening of the local level coordination to address district fragmented services and build cooperative relationships of trust between government stakeholders, CSO, and communities in responding to GBVF	Number of coordinating meetings conducted	March 2025	DSD

Key Intervention	Activities	Indicators	Target	Responsible
continuum of care, support, as improvement for evaluation and assessment of trauma cases due to GBVF, children and family members.	Development of standardized Psychosocial support training manual to be used in all service package for frontline staff	Manual approved and printed	March 2025	DSD
	Facilitate reskilling of service provider on psychosocial support across the public services and CSO focused on GBVF.	Number of trainers trained	March 2029	DSD
	Establishment and resourcing of victim support centers to accommodate family members affected by GBVF.	Number of resourced and functional victim support centers	March 2029	DSD
	Strengthen Thuthuzela Care Centers to empower victims and survivors of GBVF on court processes	Number of victims who accessed TCC services	March 2029	NPA

4.4.5 Pillar 5: Economic Power

Strategic Outcomes:

- I. Economic security and opportunity for GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups' core skills, competencies and attributes are enhanced and promoted through accessible, responsive, formal and non-formal education and learning opportunities.
- II. Accelerated and sustained initiatives to address GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups' unequal economic and social status.
- III. Established specified entrepreneurship support fund and market development initiatives for GBVF victims and survivors including the vulnerable groups.

Key intervention	Key activities	Indicators	Target	Accountability Lead Department
Accelerate and sustain initiatives to address women economic and social inequalities across the province	Develop, implement, support, manage and monitor equitable job creation, representation and ownership by victims and survivors of GBVF.	Number of economic programs implemented for equitable job creation.	March 2029	PT, DEDT, DARDLEA municipalities,
	Establish entrepreneurship funds ring-fenced for GBVF victims and survivors	Entrepreneurial fund established		PT, DEDT, DTI
	Facilitate the mobilization of micro-finance institutions to provide assessment of GBVF victim and survivor businesses	Number of GBVF victim and survivor funded businesses.	March 2029	PT, DEDT, municipalities

Key intervention	Key activities	Indicators	Target	Accountability Lead Department
	Accelerate the distribution of land for the benefit of women, promoting agriculture and industrialization	Number of hectares allocated to victim and survivor businesses	March 2029	PT, DEDT, DTI, DARDLEA
Accelerate access to the market for economic strengthening initiatives for GBVF victims and survivors	Establish public-private partnerships to facilitate business linkages	Number of GBVF victim and survivor businesses linked	March 2029	PT, DEDT, DTI
	Establish survivor-focused cooperatives to enhance entrepreneurship and economic resilience	Number of co-operatives established that are functional	March 2029	PT, DEDT, DTI, DARDLEA, DSD
Promote workplaces that are safe and violence free for all women in their diversity	Conduct GBVF prevention and awareness at public and private workspaces	Number of GBVF prevention and awareness interventions conducted	March 2029	All departments, municipalities, private sector & CSO
	Develop, implement, and monitor GBVF policies in workplaces across public and private sectors	A number of organizations with GBVF policies in place	March 2029	All departments, municipalities, private sector & CSO

4.4.6 Pillar Six: Research and Information System

Strategic Outcome:

- I. Provincial established and well-coordinated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework aligned to District Development Models, Annual Performance Plans, Provincial Department Programmes and CSO GBVF strategies and plans
- II. Established institutionalized GBVF information repository coordinated and managed by the Office of the Premier.
- III. An established CSO standardized reporting system and portal linked to provincial GBVF information repository.
- IV. Real time digital information reporting systems for improved knowledge management systems for GBVF to inform justice, protection, support and care initiatives.

Key Interventions	Key Activities	Indicators	Target	Accountability Lead Department
Well-coordinated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework aligned to SPs, IDPs, APPs, SDBIPs and CSOs strategic plans	Develop M&E framework to guide reporting	M&E reporting framework developed	March 2024	Office of the Premier
	Conduct mid-term and end term reviews of the strategy	Mid-term and end term reviews conducted	March 2027	Office of the Premier
Facilitate establishment of Research, knowledge	Document best practices on GBVF interventions at provincial level	Best practices documented	March 2029	Office of the Premier

Key Interventions	Key Activities	Indicators	Target	Accountability Lead Department
management partnership between provincial government and education institutions	Conduct operation research/baseline study	Baseline study conducted	March 2024	Office of the Province
