

Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention in South Africa

Capacities strengthened for aligned and evidence-informed policy implementation for safer South African communities

The challenge

People's quality of life and opportunities depend fundamentally on their safety and freedom from all forms of violence. In South Africa, extremely high levels of interpersonal violence are a significant obstacle to the country's development. Between April 2020 and March 2021, an average of 55 murders per day were recorded. Youth are especially vulnerable to becoming perpetrators or victims of violence due to risk factors such as exposure to violence in childhood, poor education, substance misuse, and unemployment. Furthermore, South Africa has amongst the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world, driven primarily by harmful gender norms and patriarchy. The rates of femicide in the country are more than five times higher than the global average.

In 2030 people living in South Africa feel safe and have no fear of crime. They feel safe at home, at school and at work, and they enjoy an active community life free of fear. Women can walk freely in the street and the children can play safely outside.

National Development Plan 2030

South Africa has a comprehensive and progressive national violence prevention policy framework that addresses interpersonal violence more broadly, as well as

gender-based violence specifically, in the form of the White Paper on Safety and Security (WPSS) and its implementation strategy, the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS), and the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide (NSP GBVF). However, the necessary capabilities to implement these policies effectively are generally insufficient, especially on local level.

Our approach

The Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP) project seeks to contribute to creating a safer South Africa through promoting integrated, holistic, and developmental approaches to address the root causes of violence and crime. The project supports a whole-of-society approach to violence prevention to strengthen capacities for the implementation of South Africa's prevention policies at the local level.

The VCP project works across four complementary areas of intervention:

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



Public Park in Johannesburg supported through the VCP project to become an accessible and safe public space for the local community. (1); brochure of the VCP supported online platform saferpaces.org.za (r)



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Lead executing agency	National Department of Cooperative Governance South Africa
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Financial Volume	VCP III: 8.5 Mio EUR (incl. 3.4 Mio EUR GAC); since 2012: total of 19.2 Mio. EUR

national Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) can be used to sustainably upscale effective GBV prevention interventions.

I want to be part of change–drivers or young people who are advocating for change in their communities, I want to be part of a generation that is breaking all odds, stigmas, generational curses and are resilient.

Neliswa Valentia Nabani (NYRI Youth Ambassador)

Results in Figures

The VCP project has introduced several measures to enhance the capacities of local government to contribute to safer communities. For instance, the South African Local Government Association has been supported to develop a [toolkit](#) for municipal officials and councillors on community safety planning. 47 municipal representatives have so far been [trained](#) on its application. At the same time, intensive support is provided to selected municipalities to develop municipal wide safety plans, with 11 plans finalised so far.

With its national partners, VCP has initiated the measure '[Safer Places: Resilient Institutions and Neighbourhoods Together](#)' to expand the implementation of collaborative government–civil society area-based prevention interventions. 15 NGOs and 10 municipalities have received training on a set of [Guides to Designing Integrated Violence Prevention Interventions](#). Other place-based support measures include the integration of environmental design approaches in safety plans in selected precincts.

A key VCP initiative addressing GBV in particular is the support to upscaling the evidence-informed prevention approach, [Stepping Stones and Creating Futures](#) (SSCF). 290 young men and women in disadvantaged communities participated in a programme on gender norms and sustainable livelihoods guided by peer facilitators. The implementation model demonstrated how the

Recognising the critical role young people play in overcoming the challenge of violence, VCP, jointly with national partners, initiated the [National Youth Resilience Initiative](#). The multi-partner collaboration aims to enhance support to youth to promote their psycho-social wellbeing and resilience to violence. So far 50 young leaders have been capacitated to engage their peers through various interventions, including [social media as well as a podcast](#).

Furthermore, the VCP project supports the scaling up of prevention interventions in schools. Initiatives such as learner-led school safety activation workshops, where so far 8000 learners from 35 schools were reached, will be integrated into a toolbox and disseminated nationwide by capacitating school district safety coordinators.

...and in a story

The Child Activist for Prevention campaign was initiated with support of the VCP project to capacitate learners to raise awareness amongst their peers about (gender-based) violence against children and to empower them to stand up for their right to a safe environment. During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign in 2020 young people produced [17 videos](#) to raise awareness of what abuse is and encourage their peers to report. Children across South Africa have been reached through these videos with an accumulated click rate of over one million.

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